

FIRST.



THE  
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE

OF  
VIRGINIA,  
PUBLISHED IN THE  
NEW AHIMAN REZON,  
IN  
1791..

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THE  
NEW  
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CHAP. I.

*Of the Temper and Qualities requisite in those who would be Free and accepted Masons.*

**B**EFORE we enter upon the duties of a Free Mason, in the various offices and stations to which he may be called in the Lodge, it is proper to give some account of the temper and qualities which are absolutely requisite, in all who aspire to partake of the sublime honours and advantages belonging to those, who are initiated into the mysteries, and instructed in the art of ancient Masonry.

SECT. 1. *Concerning God and Religion.*

Whosoever from love of knowledge, interest, or curiosity, desires to be a Mason, is to know that, as his foundation and great corner stone, he is to believe firmly in the Eternal God, and to pay that worship which is due to him, as the great Architect and Governor of the universe. A Mason is also obliged by his tenure to observe the moral law, as a true *Noachida*;\* and if he rightly understands the royal art, he cannot tread in the irreligious paths of the unhappy libertine, or stupid atheist; nor, in any case, act against the great inward light of his own conscience.

\*Sons of Noah, the first name for Free Masons.

He will likewise shun the gross errors of bigotry and superstition; making a due use of his own reason, according to that liberty, wherewith a Mason is made free. For although in ancient times, the christian Masons were charged to comply with the christian usages of the countries where they sojourned or worked; (being found in all nations, and of divers religions and and persuasions) yet it is now thought most expedient, that the brethren in general, should only be charged to adhere to the essentials of religion, in which all men agree; leaving each brother to his own private judgment, as to particular modes and forms. Whence it follows, that all Masons are to be good men and true—men of honour and honesty, by whatever religious names or persuasions distinguished; always following that golden precept, of “doing unto all men as (upon “a change of conditions) they would that all men “should do unto them.”

Thus, since Masons, by their tenure, must agree in the three great articles of *Noah*. Masonry becomes the centre of union among the brethren, and the happy means of conciliating and cementing into one body, those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance; thereby strengthening the divine obligations of religion and love.

SECT. 2. *Concerning Government and the civil Magistrate.*

Whoever will be a true Mason, is further to know, that by the rules of his art, his obligations as a subject and citizen, will not be relaxed but enforced. He is to be a lover of quiet, peaceable and obedient to the civil powers, which yield him protection, and are set over him where he resides or works, so far as they infringe not the limited bounds of reason, and of reli-

gion. Nor can a real craftsman ever be concerned in plots against the state, or be disrespectful to the magistracy; because the welfare of his country is his peculiar care.

But if any brother by forgetting for a time the rules of his craft, and listening to evil councils, should unhappily fall into a contrary conduct, he is not be countenanced in his crimes or rebellion, against the state; but he forfeits all benefits of the Lodge, and his fellows would refuse to associate or converse with him in private, while he continues in his crimes; that neither offence nor umbrage may be given to lawful government. But such a person is still considered as a Mason, his character as such being indefeasible; and hopes are to be entertained, that the rules of the craft may again prevail with him, over every evil council and device that may have led him astray.

From this quiet and meek temper of true Masons, and their constant desire to adorn the countries where they reside, with all useful arts, crafts, and improvements, they have been from the earliest ages, encouraged and protected by the wisest rulers of states and commonwealths; who have likewise thought it an honour to have their names enrolled among the fraternity. And thus Masonry having always flourished most in the most flourishing and peaceable times of every country, and having often suffered in a particular manner through the calamitous effects of war, bloodshed, and devastation; the craftsmen are therefore the more strongly engaged to act agreeably to the rules of their art, in following peace and love, as far as possible, with all men.

SECT. 3. *Concerning private Qualities and Duties.*

In regard to himself, whoever would be a Mason, should know how to practise all the private virtues.— He should avoid all manner of intemperance or excess, which might obstruct his performance of the laudable duties of his craft, or lead him into crimes which would reflect dishonour on the ancient fraternity. He is to be industrious in his profession, and true to the lord and master he serves. He is to labour justly and not to eat any man's bread for nought, but to pay truly for his meat and drink. What leisure his labour allows, he is to employ in studying the arts and sciences with a diligent mind, that he may the better perform all his duties (as aforesaid) to his creator, his country, his neighbour and himself.—For in a few words, “to walk humbly in the sight of God, to do justice, and love mercy,” are the true indispensable characteristics of a real free and accepted Mason.

For the better attainment of these shining qualities, he is to seek and acquire as far as possible, the virtues of patience, meekness, self-denial, forbearance and the like, which give him the command over himself, and enable him to govern his own family, with affection, dignity and prudence; at the same time checking every disposition injurious to the world, and promoting that love and service which brethren of the same Lodge or household owe to each other. Therefore to afford succour to the distressed, to divide our bread with the industrious poor, and to put the misguided traveller into the way, are qualities inherent in the craft, and suitable to its dignity. But though a Mason is never to shut his ear unkindly to the complaints of any of the human species; yet when a brother is oppressed or suffers, he is in a more peculiar manner called to open


his whole soul in love and compassion to him, and to relieve without prejudice, according to his capacity.

It is further necessary, that all who would be true Masons, should learn to abstain from malice and slander, evil-speaking, backbiting, unmannerly, scornful, provoking, reproachful and ungodly language; and that he should know how to obey those that are set over him, on account of their superior qualifications as Masons, however they may be in worldly rank or station. For although Masonry divests no man of his temporal honours or titles, but on the contrary, highly respects them, yet in the lodge pre-eminence of virtue and knowledge in the royal art, is considered as the true fountain of all nobility, rule and government.

The last quality and virtue which I shall mention, as absolutely requisite in all those who would be Masons, is that of secrecy; which indeed, from its importance, ought to have held the first place in this chapter, if it had not been intended to treat of it more fully, as a conclusion of the whole.

So great stress is laid upon this particular virtue, that it is enforced among Masons, under the strongest penalties and obligations, nor, in their esteem, is any man, to be counted wise, who is void of intellectual strength and ability to cover and conceal such honest secrets as are committed to him, as well as his own more serious affairs. Both sacred and prophane history teach us, that numerous virtuous attempts have failed of their intended scope and end through defect of secret concealment.

The ancient philosophers and wise men (the princes of whom were Masons) were so fully persuaded of the great virtue of secrecy, that it was the first lesson



which they taught their pupils and followers. Thus in the school of Pythagoras, we find it was a rule that every novice was to be silent for a time, and refrain from speaking, unless when a question was asked; to the end that the valuable secrets which he had to communicate, might be the better preserved and valued. Lycurgus made a perpetual law, obliging every man to keep secret whatever was committed to him, unless it were to the injury of the state. And Cato, the Roman censor, told his friends, that of three things (if ever he happened to be guilty) he always repented, viz. 1st. If he divulged a secret: 2d. If he went on water when he might stay on dry land; and 3d. If he suffered a day to pass without doing (or endeavouring to do) some good. We also read, that the Persian law punished the betraying of a secret more grievously than any other common crime.

Nor is the virtue of secrecy recommended only by the wisest heathen philosophers and lawgivers, but likewise by the fathers of the church, and by inspired writers.

St. Ambrose places the patient gift of silence among the principal foundations of virtue, and the wise king Solomon, deems the man unworthy to reign, or have any rule over others, who cannot command himself, and keep his own secrets. A discoverer of secrets he deems infamous and a traitor; but him that conceals them, he accounts a faithful brother. "A tale bearer," says he, "revealeth secrets; but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth them. Discover not a secret to another, lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.—He that keepeth his tongue, keepeth his own soul."—To the same purpose in the book of Ecclesiasticus, (chap. xxvii.) we

meet with the following beautiful passages, worthy to be forever recorded in the hearts of all Masons.

“Whosoever discovereth secrets, loseth his credit, and shall never find a friend to his mind.—Love thy friend, and be faithful unto him; but if thou betrayest his secrets, follow no more after him: for as a man hath destroyed his enemy, so hast thou lost the love of thy neighbour: As one that letteth a bird go out of his hand, so hast thou let thy neighbour go, and shall not see him again.—Follow after him no more, for he is too far off; he is as a roe escaped out of the snare. As for a wound, it may be bound up; and after reviling, there may be reconciliation: but he that betrayeth secrets, is without hope.”

Thus far hath been spoken of the internal qualities and virtues required in all who aspire to the sublime honour and advantage of becoming free and accepted Masons. We speak next of the external qualities, and the steps to be pursued, in order to obtain initiation and admission into a duly warranted lodge of ancient York Masons.

Be it known to you then in the first place, that no person is capable of becoming a member of such lodge, unless in addition to the qualities and virtues mentioned above, or at least a disposition and capacity to seek and acquire them, he is also “free born, of mature and discreet age; of good report; of sufficient natural endowments, and the senses of a man; with an estate, office, trade, occupation, or some visible way of acquiring an honest livelihood, and of working in his craft, as becomes the members of this most ancient and honorable fraternity; who ought not only to earn what is sufficient for themselves and families, but likewise something to spare for works of charity, and



“for supporting the ancient grandeur and dignity of  
“the royal craft. Every person desiring admission,  
“must also be upright in body, not deformed or dis-  
“membered at the time of making, but of hale and  
“entire limbs, as a man ought to be.”

Thus you see, a strict though private and impartial enquiry, will be made into your character and ability before you can be admitted into any lodge; and by the rules of Masonry, no friend who may wish to propose you, can shew you any favour in this respect. But if you have a friend who is a Mason, and is every way satisfied in these points, his duty is described as follows, viz.

*SECT. 4. Concerning the proposing of new Members in a Lodge.*

Every person desirous of being made a free Mason in any lodge, shall be proposed by a member thereof, who shall give an account of the candidate's name, age, quality, title, trade, place of residence, description of his person, and other requisites as mentioned in the foregoing sections. And it is generally required, that such proposal be also seconded by some one or more members, who likewise know something of the candidate. Such proposal shall also be made in lodge hours,† at least one lodge night before initiation, in order that the brethren may have sufficient time and opportunity to make a strict enquiry into the morals, character, circumstances and connexions of the candidate, for which purpose a special committee is sometimes appointed.

† That is from March 25th, to September 25th, between the hours of seven and ten; and from September 25th, to March 25th, between the hours of six and nine.

The brother who proposes a candidate, shall at the same time deposit such a sum of money for him, as the rules or bye-laws of the lodge may require, which is forfeited to the lodge, if the candidate should not attend according to his proposal; but is to be returned to him, if he should not be approved or elected. In case he is elected, he is to pay (in addition to his deposit) such further sum as the laws of the lodge may require, and cloathe the lodge, or make some other present, if his circumstances will admit, and the brethren agree to accept the same for the benefit of the craft, and of distressed members.

Having shewn that a strict enquiry will be made into your character, justice requires that you should also be advised to be alike circumspect on your side, and to make enquiry into the character of the lodge into which you desire admission; for there is no excellence without its opposite, and no true coin without counterfeits.

In the first place, then, you have a right before admission, to desire your friend to shew you the warrant or dispensation by which the lodge is held; which, if genuine, you will find to be an instrument printed or written upon parchment, and signed by some noble Grand Master, his Deputy and Grand Wardens, and Grand Secretary, sealed with the Grand Lodge seal, constituting particular persons (therein named) as Master and wardens, with full power to congregate and hold a lodge at such place, and therein "make and admit Free Masons, according to the most ancient and honourable custom of the royal craft, in all ages and nations, throughout the known world; with full power and authority to nominate and chuse their successors, &c."

You may request the perusal of the bye laws, which being short, you may read in the presence of your friend, or he will read to you, and shew you also a list of the members of the lodge, by all which, you will be the better able to judge, whether you would chuse to associate with them, and submit to be conformable to their rules. Being thus free to judge for yourself, you will not be liable to the dangers of deception, nor of having your pocket picked by impostors, and of perhaps being afterwards laughed at into the bargain; but on the contrary, you will be admitted into a society, where you will converse with men of honour and honesty, be exercised in all the offices of brotherly love, and be made acquainted with mysteries, of which it is not lawful to speak further, or to reveal out of the lodge.

## CHAP. II.

*Of the general Regulations among Ancient York Masons, with a few Alterations, adapted to the particular Situation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.*

**H**AVING in the foregoing chapter treated as briefly as possible, "of the temper and qualities required in those, who wish to become free and accepted "Masons;" I now proceed (according to our proposed method) to collect and digest under proper heads, those general regulations, (old as well as new) which more immediately concern operative Masons; avoiding prolixity, and the insertion of such old regulations as are explained or supplied by subsequent ones, universally received and now in force in all the lodges.

SECT. 1. *Concerning a Lodge and its Government.*

1. A lodge is a place in which Masons meet to work. The assembly or organized body of Masons is also called a lodge, just as the word church is expressive both of the congregation of people, and of the place in which they meet to worship.

2. The qualities of those who are to be admitted as members of a lodge, have been fully mentioned in the foregoing chapter; and it is only necessary to repeat here in general, that they are to be "men of good report, free-born of mature age,† hale and sound, not "deformed or dismembered at the time of their making, and no woman or ennuich.

3. A lodge ought to assemble for work at least once in each calendar month, and must consist of one Master, two Wardens, senior and junior, one Secretary, one Treasurer, and as many members as the Master and a majority of the lodge, shall from time to time think proper; although more than forty or fifty (when they can attend regularly, as the wholesome rules of the craft require) are generally found inconvenient for working to advantage; and therefore, when a lodge comes to be thus numerous, some of the ablest master workmen, and others under their direction, will obtain leave to separate and apply to the Grand Lodge for a warrant to work by themselves, in order to the further advancement of the craft, as the laws hereafter to be delivered, will more particularly shew. But such warrant cannot be granted to any number of Masons, nor can a new lodge be formed, unless there be among them three Master Masons, to be nominated and installed

† In this country they are not supposed to be mature, before they are 21 years of age.

officers for governing and instructing the brethren of such lodge, and promoting them in due time according to their merit.

4. When men of eminent quality, learning, rank, or wealth, apply to be made and admitted into the lodge; they are to be accepted with proper respect after due examination, for among such, are often found those, who afterwards prove good Lords or Founders of work; excellent officers, and the ablest designers, to the great honour and strength of the lodge. From among them also the fraternity can generally have some honorable or learned Grand Master, and other Grand Officers. But still these brethren are equally subject to all the charges and regulations, except in what more immediately concerns operative Masons and their preferment, as well as the preferment of all other masons, must be governed by the general rule; that is to say, founded upon real worth and personal merit, and not upon mere seniority, or any other particular rank or quality.

5. In order that due decorum may be observed, while the lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn, and for the better preservation of secrecy and good harmony, a brother well skilled in the Master's part, shall be appointed and paid for tiling the lodge door, during the time of communication.

6. Every lodge shall keep a book containing their bye laws, the names of their members, with a list of all the lodges under the same Grand Lodge, and united in general communication, with the usual times and places of meeting in such lodges, and such other necessary parts of their transactions, as are proper to be written.

7. No lodge shall make more than five new brethren at one time, unless by dispensation from the Grand Master, or Deputy in his absence; nor shall any person be made, or admitted a member of a lodge, without being proposed one month before, (unless in particular cases) that due notice may be given to all the members, to make the necessary enquiries into the candidate's character and connexions, and that there may be such unanimity in the election and admission of members, as the bye laws require; because unanimity is essential to the being of every lodge: And, therefore, no member can be imposed on any lodge, by any power whatever, without their consent; nor would it be proper to admit any brother to work among them, who has openly violated the sacred principles of masonry, until undoubted proof of his reformation has been given; least the harmony of the lodge might be thereby disturbed, and not then, till a certificate is produced of his having paid all arrearages to that lodge, of which he was last a member; for should any lodge admit a brother, who is in arrears to any other lodge, the lodge where he is admitted, make the debt their own.

8. As every lodge has a right to keep itself an entire body, they ought never to interfere in the business of another lodge. Therefore it would be highly improper in any lodge, to confer a degree on a brother, who is not of their household; for every lodge ought to be competent to their own business, and are indubitably the best judges of the qualifications of their own members: and it does not follow as of course, that a brother admitted among the household as an apprentice, to learn the royal art, is capable of taking charge of that household, however skilled he may be in his apprenticeship; for there are many very necessary qualifications essential in those, who are promoted to the higher orders.

9. As the officers of every lodge are the proper representatives of their own lodge in Grand Lodge, still for the sake of equal representation, the officers are allowed deputies, when unable to attend themselves; which deputies must be appointed by the majority of every particular lodge when duly congregated, and their appointment shall be attested by the Secretary, with the seal of their lodge. And every lodge has the privilege of instructing their Master and Wardens, or their deputies, for their conduct in the Grand Lodge, and quarterly communication.

10. Every brother ought to be a member of some lodge, nor is it proper that any number of brethren should withdraw or separate themselves from the lodge in which they were made, or were afterwards admitted members, without a sufficient cause; although the right is an inherent one, and can never be restrained by any power whatever; still such separation would be improper, unless the lodge becomes too numerous for working; in which case, a sufficient number may withdraw with the approbation of their lodge, in order to form a new one. But before application can be made to the Grand Lodge, they shall pay all dues to their lodge, and give them notice in writing, that they intend to apply to the Grand Lodge, for a warrant to form a new one. The lodge then shall certify to the Grand Lodge, the cause of the application, and at the same time, shall recommend the most fitten brethren as Master and Wardens, before they can obtain the warrant. And no set of Masons, without such warrant, shall ever take upon themselves to work together, or form a new lodge.

*SECT. 2. Of the ancient Manner of constituting a Lodge.*

A new lodge for avoiding many irregularities, should be solemnly constituted by the Grand Master, with his

Deputy and Wardens; or in the Grand Master's absence, the deputy acts for his worship the senior Grand Warden as deputy, the junior Grand Warden as the senior, and the present Master of a lodge as the junior: or if the deputy is also absent, the Grand Master may depute either of his Grand Wardens, who can appoint others to act as Grand Wardens pro tempore.\*

The lodge being opened, and the candidates or new Master and Wardens being yet among the fellow crafts, the Grand Master shall ask his deputy if he has examined them, and whether he finds the Master well skilled in the noble science and the royal art, and duly instructed in our mysteries, &c. The deputy answering in the affirmative, shall (by the Grand Master's order) take the candidate from amongst his fellows, and present him to the Grand Master, saying; "Right Worshipful Grand Master, the brethren here desire to be formed into a regular lodge, and I present my worthy brother A. B. to be installed their master, whom I know to be of good morals and great skill, true and trusty, and a lover of the whole fraternity, wheresoever dispersed over the face of the earth."

Then the Grand Master placing the candidate on his left hand, and having asked and obtained the unanimous consent of the brethren, shall say, (after some

\* When institutions are required, where the distance is so great as to render it impossible for the Grand Officers to attend; the Grand Master, or his deputy, issues a written instrument under his hand and private seal, to some worthy brother, who has been properly installed Master of a lodge, with full power to congregate, install, and constitute the petitioners.

If the Grand Master and Deputy be absent, (or through sickness) rendered incapable of acting, the Grand Wardens and Grand Secretary, jointly, may issue a like power under their hands and seal of the Grand Lodge, provided the Grand Master has first signed a warrant for holding such new lodge: But the Grand Wardens must never issue any masonic writings under their private seal or seals.



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other ceremonies and expressions, that cannot be written) "I constitute and form these good brethren into "a new regular lodge, and appoint you brother A. B. "the master of it; not doubting of your capacity and "care to preserve the cement of the lodge, &c."

Upon this the deputy, or some other brother for him, shall rehearse the charge of a Master, and the Grand Master shall ask the candidate saying; "Do you submit to these charges as Masters have done in all "ages;" and the new Master signifying his cordial submission thereto, the Grand Master shall by certain significant ceremonies and ancient usages, install him and present him with his warrant, the book of constitution, the lodge book, and the instruments of his office one after another, and after each of them, the Grand Master, his deputy, or some brother for him, shall rehearse the short and pithy charge, that is suitable to the thing presented.

Next the members of this new lodge bowing altogether to the Grand Master, shall return his worship their thanks, (according to the custom of Masters) and shall immediately do homage to their master, and (as faithful craftsmen) signify their promise of subjection and obedience to him; by usual congratulations.

The Deputy and Grand Wardens, and any other brethren that are not members of this new lodge, shall next congratulate the new master; and he shall return his becoming acknowledgments, first to the Grand Master and Grand Officers, and to the rest in their order.

Then the Grand Master orders the new Master to enter immediately upon the exercise of his office, and

calling forth his senior warden, a fellow craft,† (Master Mason) presents him to the Grand Master for his worship's approbation, and to the new lodge for their consent; upon which the senior or junior Grand Warden, or some brother for him, shall rehearse the charge of a warden, &c. of a private lodge; and he signifying his cordial submission thereto, the new Master shall present him singly, with the several instruments of his office, and in ancient manner and due form install him in his proper‡ place.

In like manner the new Master shall call forth his junior Warden, who shall be a Master Mason, and present him (as above) to the junior Grand Warden, or some other brother in his stead; and he shall in the above manner be installed in his proper place; and the brethren of this new lodge, shall signify their obedience to their new wardens, by the usual congratulations due to wardens.

The Grand Master then gives all the brethren joy of the Master and Wardens, &c. and recommends harmony, &c. hoping their only contention will be a laudable emulation in cultivating the royal art, and the social virtues.

Then the Grand Secretary, or some brother for him, (by the Grand Master's order) in the name of the Grand Lodge, declares and proclaims this new lodge duly constituted No. , &c. Upon which all the new lodge together, (after the custom of Masters) return their hearty and sincere thanks for the honour of his constitution.

† They were called fellow-crafts, because the Masons of old times never gave any man the title of Master Mason, until he had first passed the chair.

‡ The Grand Wardens generally install the Wardens at new constitutions, as being best qualified for transacting such business.

The Grand Master also orders the Grand Secretary to register this new lodge in the Grand Lodge book, and to notify the same to the other particular lodges; and after some other ancient customs and demonstrations of joy, and satisfaction, he orders the senior Grand Warden to close the lodge.

SECT. 3. *Concerning the behaviour of Masons as Members of a Lodge.*

1. *Of Attendance.*

Every brother ought to belong to some regular lodge, and should always appear therein properly clothed, and in clean and decent apparel, truly subjecting himself to all its bye laws and general regulations. He must attend all meetings whether stated or emergent, when duly summoned, unless he can offer to the Master and Wardens, such plea of necessity for his absence, as the said laws and regulations admit.

By the ancient rules and usages of masonry, (which are generally adopted among the bye laws of every lodge) no plea was judged sufficient to excuse any absentee, unless he could satisfy the lodge that he was sick, lame, in confinement, upwards of three miles from the place of meeting, or detained by some extraordinary and unforeseen necessity.

2. *Of Working.*

All Masons should work hard and honestly on working days, that they may live reputably, and appear in a decent and becoming manner on holidays. All the working hours appointed by law, or confirmed by custom, are to be strictly observed under the penalties and fines hereafter to be laid down. The hours of work

are "from seven o'clock in the evening till ten, between  
 "the 25th of March and the 25th of September; and  
 "from six till nine, between the 25th of September and  
 "the 25th of March."

The Master and masons shall faithfully finish the lord's work, whether task or journey; nor shall they take the work at task, which have been accustomed to journey.

None shall envy a brother's prosperity, nor supplant or put him out of his work, if capable to finish it.

All Masons shall meekly receive their wages without murmuring or meeting, nor desert the matter till the lord's work is finished. They must avoid all unbecoming modes of expression, calling each other brother and fellow, both within and without the lodge, with much courtesy as beseemeth. They shall instruct the younger brothers to become bright and expert workmen, that the lord's materials be not spoiled. But as free and accepted Masons, they must not allow cowans to work with them, nor even be themselves employed by cowans, without an urgent necessity. And when such necessity happens, they shall have a separate communication, and not suffer cowans to learn from them, nor any labourer to be employed in the proper work of free Masons.

### 3. *Of Behaviour in the Lodge while open.*

While the lodge is open for work, Masons must hold no private conversation or committees, without leave from the Master; nor talk of any thing foreign or impertinent to the work in hand; nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any other brother addressing himself to the chair; nor act ludicrously while the lodge

is engaged in what is serious and solemn; but every brother shall pay due reverence to the Master, the Wardens, and all his fellows, and put them to worship.

Every brother found guilty of a fault, shall stand to the award of the lodge, unless he appeals to the Grand Lodge; but if the lord's work be hindered in the mean while, a particular reference may be made.

No private piques, or quarrels about nations, families, religions, or politics, must be brought within the doors of the lodge, as being directly contrary to the rules already laid down—Masons being declared of the oldest Catholic religion, universally acknowledged as such, and of all nations; bound to live upon the square, level and plumb with each other, following the steps of their predecessors, in cultivating the peace and harmony of the lodge, without distinction of sect or political party.

*4. Of Behaviour after the Lodge is closed, and before the Brethren depart Home.*

When the lodge is closed, and the labours of the day finished, the brethren before they depart home to their rest, may enjoy themselves with innocent mirth, enlivened and exalted with their own peculiar songs, and sublime pieces of music, treating one another according to ability, but avoiding all excess and compulsion, both in eating and drinking; considering each other in the hours both of labour and festivity, as always free. And, therefore, no brother is to be hindered from going home when he pleases; for although after lodge hours, Masons are as other men, yet if they should fall into excess, the blame, though unjustly, may be cast upon the fraternity, by the ignorant or envious world.

**SECT. 4.** *Concerning the Behaviour of Masons, in their private Character.*

1. *When a number of Brethren happen to meet, without any Strangers among them, and not in a formed Lodge.*

In such a case you are to salute each other, in a courteous manner, as you are or may be instructed in the lodge; calling each other brother, and freely communicating hints of knowledge, but without disclosing secrets, unless to those who have given long proof of their taciturnity and honour: and taking care in all your actions and conversation, that you are neither overseen or overheard of strangers. In this friendly intercourse, no brother shall derogate from the respect due to another, were he not a Mason. For though all Masons, as brothers, are upon the level, yet masonry (as was said in a former section) divests no man of the honors due to him before, or that may become due after he was made a Mason. On the contrary, it increases his respect, teaching us to add to all his other honours, those which as Masons we cheerfully pay to an eminent brother; distinguishing him above all of his rank and station, and serving him readily according to our ability.

2. *When in presence of Strangers, who are not Masons.*

Before those who are not Masons, you must be cautious in your words, carriage and motions; so that the most penetrating stranger shall not be able to discover what is not proper to be intimated. The impertinent and ensnaring questions, or ignorant and idle discourse, of those who seek to pry into the secrets and mysteries committed to you, must be prudently answered and managed, or the discourse wisely diverted to another subject, as your discretion and duty shall direct.

### 3. *When at Home and in your Neighbourhood.*

Masons ought to be moral men, and fully qualified as is required in the foregoing sections and charges. Consequently they should be good husbands, good parents, good sons and good neighbours; not staying too long from home, avoiding all excess injurious to themselves or families; and wise as to all affairs, both of their own household and of the lodge, for certain reasons known to themselves.

### 4. *Of Behaviour towards a Foreign Brother, or Stranger.*

You are cautiously to examine a stranger or foreign brother, as prudence and the rules of the craft direct, that you may not be imposed upon by a pretender; and if you discover any one to be such, you are to reject him with scorn and shame, taking care to give him no hints; but such as are found to be true and faithful, you are to respect as brothers, according to what is directed above; relieving them if in want, to your utmost power; or directing them how to find relief, and employing them if you can, or else recommending them to employment.

### 5. *Of Behaviour behind a Brother's Back as well as before his Face.*

Free and accepted Masons have ever been charged to avoid all manner of slandering and backbiting of true and faithful brethren, with all malice and unjust resentment, or talking disrespectfully of a brother's person or performance. Nor must they suffer any others to spread unjust reproaches or calumnies against a brother behind his back, nor to injure him in his fortune, occupation or character; but they shall defend such a brother, and give him notice of any danger or injury

wherewith he may be threatened, to enable him to escape the same, as far as is consistent with honour, prudence, and the safety of religion, morality and the state, but no further.

6. *Concerning Differences and Law Suits, if any such should unhappily arise among Brethren.*

If a brother do you injury, or if you have any difference with him about any worldly or temporal business or interest, apply first to your own or his lodge, to have the matter in dispute adjusted by the brethren. And if either party be not satisfied with the determination of the lodge, an appeal may be carried to the Grand Lodge; and you are never to enter into a law suit, till the matter cannot be decided as above. And if it be a matter that wholly concerns Masonry, law suits are to be entirely avoided, and the good advice of prudent brethren is to be followed, as they are the best referees of such differences.

But where references are either impracticable or unsuccessful, and courts of law or equity must at last decide, you must still follow the general rules of masonry already laid down, avoiding all wrath, malice, rancour and personal ill-will, in carrying on the suit with a brother; neither saying or doing any thing to hinder the continuance or renewal of that brotherly love and friendship, which are the glory and cement of this ancient fraternity.

Thus shall we shew to all the world the benign influence of Masonry, as wise, true and faithful brethren, before us, have done from the beginning of time; and as all who shall follow us, and would be thought worthy of that name, will do, till architecture shall be dissolved, with the great fabric of the world, in the last general conflagration!



These charges, and such others as shall be given to you, in a way that cannot be written, you are strictly and conscientiously to observe; and that they may be the better observed, they should be read or made known to new brethren at their making; and at other times as the Master shall direct.

AMEN! SO MOTE IT BE!

SECT. 5. *Of the Master of a Lodge, his Election, Office, and Duty.*

No brother can be Master of a Lodge till he has first served the office of Warden somewhere; unless in extraordinary cases, or when a new lodge is to be formed, and no past or former Warden is to be found among the members. In such cases, three Master Masons, although they have served in no former offices, (if they be well learned) may be constituted Master and Wardens of such new lodge, or any old lodge in the like emergency.

The Master of every lodge shall be chosen by ballot on the stated lodge night, each *St. John's* day; and the present Wardens (where they regularly are) shall be put up among the number of candidates for the chair, but shall then withdraw, while every free member (viz. all who have paid up their fines and dues, or have been excused payment according to law) gives his vote in favor of him whom he deems most worthy. Each free member hath one vote, and the master two votes, where the number of votes happens to be equal, otherwise he has but one vote.

When the ballot is closed, and before it be examined, the former Master shall order the candidates to be brought back before him, and to take their seats again

as wardens. He shall then carefully examine the poll, and audibly declare him that hath the majority of votes duly elected.

The Master-elect shall then nominate one for the senior Warden's chair, and the present Master and brethren shall nominate one in opposition; both of whom shall withdraw till the ballot is closed as aforesaid, after which they shall be called before the Master, and the poll shall be examined and declared by him as above directed, in like manner shall the lodge proceed in the choice of all the inferior officers; great care being taken that none be put in nomination for favour or affection, birth or fortune, exclusive of the consideration of real merit and ability, to fill his office for the honour and advancement of masonry. No Mason chosen into any office can refuse to serve, without incurring the penalties laid down in the chapter of fines, unless he has served in the same office before. The Master of every regular lodge, thus duly elected and installed, has it in special charge (as appurtenant to his office, duty and dignity) to see that the bye laws of his lodge, as well as the general regulations from the Grand Lodge, be duly observed, that his Wardens discharge their office faithfully, and be examples of diligence and sobriety to the craft; that true and exact minutes and entries of all proceedings be made and kept by the Secretary; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just accounts at the stated times, according to the bye laws and orders of the lodge; and in general, that all the goods and monies belonging to the body be truly managed and dispensed, as if they were those of his own private household, according to the vote and direction of the majority, whether in charity or in working; and that no more wages than are just be given to any fellow or apprentice.

The Master shall further take care that no apprentice or fellow be taken into his house or lodge, unless he has sufficient employment for him, and finds him to be the son of honest parents, a perfect youth, without maim or defect in body, of full age,\* and otherwise duly qualified (according to the rules before laid down) for learning and understanding the sublime mysteries of the art. Thus shall the lords or founders be well served, and the craft not despised. Thus also shall such apprentices, when expert in the business of their apprenticeship, be admitted upon further improvement, as fellow crafts; and in due time, be raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons, capable themselves to undertake the lord's work; animated with the prospect of passing in future through all the higher honours of Masonry, viz. those of Wardens and Masters of their Lodges, and perhaps at length of Grand Wardens and Grand Masters of all the Lodges, according to their merit.

The Master of a particular lodge has the right and authority of calling his lodge, or congregating the members into a chapter at pleasure, upon the application of any of the brethren, and upon any emergency and occurrence, which in his judgment may require their meeting; and he is to fill the chair when present. It is likewise his duty, together with his Wardens, to attend the Grand Lodge at the quarterly communications, and also the Steward's Lodge, and such occasional or special grand communications as the good of the craft may require, when duly summoned by the Grand Secretary, and within such reasonable distance of the place of holding the Grand Lodge, as the laws of the same may have ascertained on that head. When in the

\* See note page 19.

Grand or Steward's Lodge, and at general as well as special communications, the Master and Wardens, or either of them, have full power and authority to represent their lodge, and to transact all matters relative thereto, as well and as truly as if the whole body were there present.

The Master has the right of appointing some brother (who is most commonly the Secretary of the lodge) to keep the book of bye laws, and other laws given to the lodge by the proper authority; and in this book shall also be kept the names of all the members of the lodge, and a list of all the lodges within the said grand communication, with the usual times and places of their meeting.

The Master has also the particular right of preventing the removal of his lodge from one house to another; and whereas several disputes have arisen on this head, and it hath been made a question in whom the power of removing a lodge to any new place is invested, when the old place of meeting appears to be inconvenient, the following rule for this purpose hath been finally agreed upon and settled by lawful authority, viz.

“ That no lodge be removed without the Master's  
 “ knowledge, nor any motion made for that purpose in  
 “ the lodge when he is absent. But if the Master be  
 “ present, and a motion be made for moving the lodge  
 “ to some other more convenient place (within the dis-  
 “ trict assigned in the warrant of such lodge) and if  
 “ the said motion be seconded and thirdded, the Master  
 “ shall order summonses to every individual member of  
 “ the lodge, specifying the business, and appointing a  
 “ day for hearing and determining the affair, at least

“ten days before, and the determination shall be made  
“by the majority. But if the Master is not of the ma-  
“jority, the lodge shall not be removed, unless full two-  
“thirds of the members present have voted for such  
“removal.

“But if the Master refuse to direct such summons to  
“be issued, (upon a motion duly made as aforesaid)  
“then either of the Wardens may direct the same; and  
“if the Master neglects to attend on the day fixed, the  
“Warden may preside in determining the affair in the  
“manner above prescribed. But the lodge shall not,  
“in the Master’s absence, (on such special call) enter  
“upon any other cause or business, but what is particu-  
“larly mentioned in the said summons.

“If the lodge is thus regularly ordered to be remov-  
“ed, the Master or Warden shall send notice to the  
“Grand Secretary, that such removal may be notified  
“and duly entered in the Grand Lodge books at the next  
“Grand Lodge.”

*N. B.* It is also a good method to have a certificate from the Grand Lodge, that such removal hath been allowed, confirmed and duly registered in their books; which will be a business of course, unless an appeal be lodged against such removal by the minority, and then a hearing will be given to both parties in the Grand Lodge, before such removal be confirmed or registered in their books.

The Master’s duty in making and admitting new brethren, and some other particular duties of his office, being such as cannot be written, save on the tablet of his heart, are therefore not to be looked for in this place, and moreover, such duties as more particularly belong to the Master and other officers of lodges, when

they sit as members of the Grand Lodge, are to be learned from the chapter which treats of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 6. *Of the Wardens of a Lodge.*

1. None but Master Masons can be Wardens of a lodge. The manner of their election, and several of their duties being connected with the election and duties of the Master, have been mentioned in the former section.

2. The Senior Warden succeeds to all the duties of the Master, and fills the chair when he is absent. Or if the Master goes abroad on business, resigns, demits, or is deposed, the Senior Warden shall forthwith fill his place till the next stated time of election. And although it was formerly held, that in such cases the Master's authority ought to revert to the last past Master who is present, yet it is now the settled rule that the authority devolves upon the Senior Warden, and in his absence upon the Junior Warden, even although a former Master be present. But the Wardens will generally waive this privilege in honour of any past Master that may be present, and will call on him to take the chair, upon the presumption of his experience and skill in conducting the business of the lodge. Nevertheless such past Master still derives his authority under the Senior Warden, and cannot act till he congregates the lodge.† If none of the officers be present, nor any former master to take the chair, the members according to seniority and merit, shall fill the places of the absent officers.‡

† See old and new Regulations, No. 2.

‡ See Rules and Orders, No. 13.

The business of the Wardens in the lodge is, generally to assist the Master in conducting the business thereof, and managing the craft, in due order and form, when the Master is present, and in doing his duties (as above set forth) when he is necessarily absent; all which is to be learned from the foregoing section. Particular lodges do likewise by their bye laws, assign particular duties to their Wardens for their own better government; which such lodges have a right to do, provided they transgress not the old land-marks, nor in any degree violate the true genius and spirit of masonry.

*SECT. 7. Of the Secretary of a Lodge.*

The Secretary shall keep a regular register or record of all transactions and proceedings of the lodge, that are fit to be committed to writing; which shall be faithfully entered in the lodge books, from the minutes taken in open lodge, after being duly read, amended, (if necessary) and approved of, before the close of every meeting; in order that the said transactions, or authentic copies thereof, may be ready to be laid before the Grand Lodge, once in every quarter if required.

In particular, the Secretary shall keep exact lists of all the members of the lodge, with the times of admission of new members: and upon or near every *St. John's* day, shall prepare and send to the Secretary of the Grand Lodge, the list of members for the time being, which shall be signed not only by the new installed officers of each lodge, but also by the last past officers; to the intent that the Grand Secretary, and consequently the members of the Grand Lodge, may be at all times enabled to know the names and number of members in each lodge under their jurisdiction, with the hand-writing of the different officers; and to pay all due respect to the brethren recommended or certified by them from time to time.

SECT. 8. *Of the Treasurer of a Lodge.*

The Treasurer is to receive and keep exact accounts of all monies raised or paid in, according to rule for the advancement of the lodge and benefit of the brethren, and to pay all orders duly drawn upon him by the authority of the lodge. He is to keep regular entries, both of his receipts and disbursements, and to have his books and vouchers always ready for examination at such stated times as the bye laws require, or when specially called upon by order of the Master and brethren.

The Treasurer is likewise to have the charge and custody of the chest, jewels and furniture of the lodge, unless when the Master and majority may judge it more convenient to appoint some other responsible brother for that particular duty; or when the officers of the lodge may take the charge immediately upon themselves. The warrant in particular is in the charge and custody of the Master.

SECT. 9. *Of the Tyler of a Lodge.*

The Tyler shall be a Master Mason, of knowledge and experience, and generally a brother is to be preferred, to whom the fees of the office may be necessary and serviceable, on account of his particular circumstances. His duty is fixed by custom, and known to every brother; and his chief charge is, not to admit any person, (not even a member while the lodge is sitting) without the knowledge and consent of the presiding officer; neither shall he admit any visitor (that is not a member of a warranted lodge) a second time, sojourners producing certificates excepted.



## CHAP. III.

*Regulations for the Government of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.*SECT. 1. *Of the Grand Lodge in general.*

1. **T**HE Grand Lodge of Virginia shall consist of a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, a Senior and Junior Wardens, a Senior and Junior Deacons, a Treasurer, a Secretary, Pursuivant and Tyler. Nor shall any brother be admitted into the Grand Lodge, but the immediate members thereof, viz. The present Grand Officers, all former Grand Masters and Wardens;† the Masters, Wardens, and past masters elect of all regular lodges, under the same distinct grand jurisdiction; and to form such Grand Lodges there must be present, on due and legal notice; the officers (or their representatives) of five regular lodges, before they can proceed to business.

2. The Grand Lodge thus formed, shall meet in the lodge room, in the City of *Richmond*, once in every year, to wit; on the 28th day of October for ever, unless that day should happen on a Sunday, in which case, on the next day; and this meeting to be considered and denominated, the Grand annual Communication, or convention of deputies from each lodge within its jurisdiction. The grand communication thus convened, shall have a right at all times, and possess an inherent power and authority, to make local ordinances, and new regulations, as well as to amend old ones, for their own particular benefit, and the good of masonry in general: provided always, that the ancient land marks be care-

† All past Grand Officers, and past Masters, not being members of some private lodge within this jurisdiction, forfeit their privileges of being members of this Grand Lodge.

fully preserved, and that such regulations be first duly proposed in writing, for the consideration of all the members, and be finally, regularly enacted by the consent of the majority. This has never been disputed, for the members of every Grand Lodge, are the representatives of all the fraternity in communications, and are an absolute and independent body, with legislative authority; provided, as before observed, that the Grand Masonic Constitution, be preserved inviolate: nor any of the land marks removed. And at this lodge, the different lodges by their officers, or deputies, shall attend with or without notice; and the Grand Lodge shall also meet four times in each year, viz. April 1st, July 1st. October 1st. and January 1st. except those days happen on a Sunday, in which case the next day—Which meetings shall always be in the lodge room, in the City of *Richmond*, and shall be composed of all those past and present Grand Officers; who by the privileges of election, have a right to vote in the Grand Lodge. The business of this lodge shall be to receive petitions and other matters, preparatory to the grand meetings; to regulate the charity fund, as in chap. 5—take cognizance of grand visitations and communications, agreeable to chap. 6—and such other matters as may be referred to them from time to time, by the annual Grand Communication.

3. No brother whatever, can be admitted into the Grand Lodge, unless he is a member of some regular lodge: nor does the appointment of a brother to an officer in the Grand Lodge, prevent his holding an office in the private lodge whereof he is a member.

4. A brother of the rank of Master, having business, or whose attendance may be necessary in point of evidence, or intelligence, or a brother of eminence, upon

motion, or leave asked and obtained, may be admitted into the Grand Lodge: but such brother being admitted, shall not be allowed to vote, nor have a right to speak to any question or matter in debate, without leave, or unless desired to give his opinion, and then he is to confine himself to matters that concern masonry only.

5. No Master or Wardens of private lodges, or other members of the Grand Lodge, shall ever attend the same, without the jewels which he ought to wear in his own private lodge, except for some good and sufficient reason to be allowed of in the Grand Lodge. And when any officer of a private lodge, from such urgent business as may necessarily plead his excuse, cannot personally attend the Grand Lodge, his own lodge may nominate and appoint any one of their members (being a Master Mason) with his jewels and cloathing, to supply his place, and support the honour of his lodge in the Grand Lodge: provided such deputy has a certificate of his appointment, with the seal of the lodge, and attested by the Secretary.

*SECT. 2. In case of the absence of any of the Grand Officers.*

1. If the Grand Master is absent at any meeting of the Grand Lodge, either stated or occasional, the Deputy Grand Master is to supply his place; if the Deputy Grand Master be likewise absent, the Senior Grand Warden takes the chair; and in his absence, the Junior Grand Warden: and although by old regulations, the Master or past Master of any private lodge, who has been longest a Mason, had the preference of the chair, in the absence of the Grand Officers; yet now the rule is, that the Master of the senior private lodge who may

be present, is to take the chair. Nevertheless any of them may wave the privilege, to do honour to a past Grand Officer, or any eminent brother and past Master. In all cases, the brother filling the chair, may nominate his deputy, and call on any eminent brethren to fill the vacancies of the Grand Lodge, *pro tem*.

2. The Grand Master at all times, when he finds he must necessarily be absent from any lodge, still has the privilege of giving a special commission, under his hand and seal of office, to any eminent brother, being a member of the Grand Lodge, to supply his place, if the Deputy Grand Master should not attend, or be necessarily absent.

3. In case of the death of a Grand Master, or any other Grand Officer, the same order of succession and precedence shall take place, as is above set forth, till the next election; when they shall be regularly chosen, and duly installed.

### SECT. 3. *Of the particular Business.*

1. The business of the Grand Lodge at their stated annual communications, is seriously to discourse of, and sedately to consider, transact and settle all matters that concern the prosperity of the craft, and the fraternity in general, or private lodges, and single brothers in particular. Here, therefore, are all differences to be seriously considered and decided, that cannot be made up and accommodated privately, nor by particular lodges. And if any brother thinks himself aggrieved by the decision of any private lodge, he may, by lodging an appeal in writing with the Grand Secretary, (who shall summon the parties and their witnesses to appear at the next ensuing Grand Communication) have the matter reheard, and finally determined upon; and

the Grand Lodge may adjourn from day to day until the business is finished. And the Grand Master, or presiding officer, when the lodge is regularly opened, shall communicate to the lodge the nature of whatever business is to come before them; and for the sake of admitting witnesses, it is esteemed most proper to try all matters of controversy in a committee of the lodge; and in order thereto, the presiding officer shall direct a committee of the whole lodge, to meet in the lodge room on the succeeding day for the aforesaid purposes; who shall examine and determine upon all and every kind of business that may be referred to them, and make a report of their proceedings to the Grand Lodge on the same evening, for their ratification.

2. In hearing all complaints, and punishing delinquents, according to the laws of the craft, they are instructed to adhere most religiously to the old Hebrew regulation, viz. "If a complaint be made against a brother, by another brother, and he be found guilty, he shall stand to the determination of the lodge; but if the accuser or complainant cannot support his charge, and it should appear to the lodge to be groundless, being the result of hatred, malice or some unwarrantable passion; he shall incur such penalty as the accused would have done, had he been duly convicted."

3. All matters of controversy before the Grand Lodge shall be determined by a majority of votes; that is to say, the Grand Master or presiding officer having one vote, (unless in case of an equal division, and then two) the Deputy Grand Master one vote; the other grand officers for the time being collectively, one vote; the past Grand Officers and past Masters collectively, one vote; and the officers, or their deputies of each particular lodge collectively, one vote.

4. The Grand Master, or presiding officer, shall for the sake of conveniency in voting, direct every collective body to set together; that when a question is before the lodge, they may consult among themselves how the vote shall be given, and when the question is put, either by holding up of hands, or otherwise, one of those collective bodies shall vote for the whole, and that duty should fall on the senior Mason.

SECT. 4. *Of particular Regulations.*

1. The election of the officers of the Grand Lodge, shall be annually on the stated October Grand Communication. The Grand Master shall be elected by a majority of ballots, who shall have the privilege of appointing his deputy. The other Grand Officers shall also be elected by a majority of ballots, agreeable to the manner of voting, laid down in the succeeding section; all of which elections shall be for one year, and until a new election shall take place; nevertheless the Grand Master may be elected for four years, and the other Grand Officers for two years successively.

2. Whenever application is made to the Grand Lodge, by a sufficient number of brethren, for a charter to form a new lodge, the Grand Lodge shall not grant the charter, unless the skill of the petitioners as Masons, and their good conduct as men, will justify it—Great regard should always be had to the morals of such brethren, as are intrusted with this important charge; therefore it is highly essential, that when the petitioners are not sufficiently known to the members of the Grand Lodge, that a certificate of their masonic and moral characters from two or more eminent brethren, shewing them to be Master Masons regularly made, should accompany the petition; this being done, the Grand Lodge shall

then issue a charter, authorising the petitioners, with such other brethren as they may call to their assistance, to enter apprentices pass fellow-crafts, and raise Master Masons agreeable to the ancient customs.

3. When a lodge becomes too numerous for working together, and application is made by some of the members for leave to separate, and form a new lodge; the cause of their separation should be certified by their lodge, to the annual stated Grand Communication, at the same time recommending the most proper and fitting brethren as officers of the new lodge, before a charter shall issue.

8.121  
4. The Grand Master, or in his absence out of the state his deputy, or either of the intermediate Grand Lodges may grant a dispensation for forming a new lodge, to continue in force until the next stated Grand Communication, provided the petitioners comply with the requisition in the preceding article; which dispensation shall have the seal of the lodge, attested by the Secretary, and entered by him in the book of proceedings—the fee for which shall be one guinea to the Secretary. Still it shall rest with the Grand Lodge at their next Grand Communication, whether a charter shall issue.

5. Whenever a charter shall issue from the Grand Lodge, which can be done at no other time than in Grand Communication, they shall direct a dispensation to issue; signed by the presiding officer, with the seal of the lodge, and attested by the secretary, directed to some past Master, with powers to appoint his Wardens to install the officers of the new lodge, and set them to work agreeable to ancient customs and usages; but the Master of this new lodge, shall receive his degree in

the presence of three past Masters at least; all of which must be done before that lodge can be intitled to a representation in the Grand Lodge.

6. Every charter issued from this Grand Lodge, shall be signed by the Grand Master for the time being, or in case of his death or absence out of the state, by the deputy Grand Master and Wardens, sealed with the seal of the Grand Lodge, and attested by the secretary, directed to three reputable brethren, authorising them to call in other brethren to their assistance, and to enter Apprentices, pass Fellow-Crafts, and raise Master Masons, agreeable to ancient customs and usages; the fee for which shall be ten pounds for the purpose of grand charity and other contingencies; and six dollars to the secretary for providing parchment and affixing the seal, to be paid previous to the delivery of the charter.

7. The present lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, may have new charters without the fee of ten pounds, and be numbered so as to preserve their priority of rank, agreeable to the date of their original charter.

8. The members of the Grand Lodge, and of all warranted lodges within their jurisdiction, so far as they have abilities and numbers, have an undoubted right to exercise all degrees of the ancient craft, and consequently the Royal Arch; but no Masons of any denomination can hold any lodge, without a warrant for the place where held. Nevertheless, Royal Arch Masons must not at processions, nor in any other place, except in the royal Arch Lodge, be distinguished by any garment or badge, different from what belongs to them as officers, or members of the grand, or their own private lodges.



(See *Laurence Dermot's*, Esq. answers to certain questions proposed by a learned master of a lodge in *Philadelphia*.)

9. That each person admitted to any degree of masonry in this Grand Lodge, shall pay a fee of five pounds for the purpose of the Grand Charity.

10. Each lodge on record, shall annually on the stated Grand Communication, pay to the Grand Treasurer for the time being, as a support to the Grand Lodge, the sum of five pounds; or a sum of money equal to three shillings for each and every member belonging to such lodge.

11. The several lodges on record, shall transmit to the Grand Lodge annually, at their October stated meetings, a list of all the officers and members composing each lodge, distinguishing their rank and degree; together with such other matters relating to the craft in general, as may be deemed proper to communicate; and that the said list be recorded by the Grand Secretary in a book, to be set apart for that purpose; to the end that the Grand Lodge may at all times know the number of labourers engaged in this great work.

12. Every brother requiring a Grand Lodge certificate or diploma, which is impressed on parchment, and signed by the proper officers, and signed also opposite the seal by the member himself, shall pay to the treasurer, the sum of six shillings towards the Grand charity fund. Nor is any brother to be intitled to such certificate, without a previous certificate from the lodge, of which he is a member; setting forth his regular behaviour, and that he has discharged regularly, all lodge dues.

SECT. 5. *Rules to be observed during the Time of Public Business.*

1. At the third stroke of the Master's gavel, there shall be a general silence, and he who breaks silence without leave from the chair, shall be publicly reprimanded.

2. Under the same penalty, every brother shall keep his seat, and be perfectly silent whenever the most worshipful, his deputy, or warden shall think proper to call to order.

3. In the Grand Lodge every member shall take his seat according to the number of his lodge, and not move about from place to place during the communication, except the Grand Wardens, as having more immediately the care of the Grand Lodge, and such other officers whose immediate business may call them to different parts of the lodge-room.

4. No brother is to speak more than twice on the same subject, unless to explain himself, or when called upon by the chair to speak.

5. Every one who speaks, shall rise and keep standing, addressing himself in a proper manner to the chair; nor shall any one presume to interrupt him under the aforesaid penalty, unless he is wandering from the point; and the Grand Master shall think proper to reduce him to order, and then the said speaker shall set down—But after he has been set right, he may again proceed if he pleases.

6. If any member be twice called to order at any one lodge, for transgressing these rules, and is guilty of a

third offence of the same nature, the chair shall peremptorily order him to quit the lodge room for that night.

7. Whoever shall be so rude as to hiss or laugh at any brother, or at what he may have advanced, he shall be forthwith solemnly excluded the communication, and declared incapable of ever being a member of the Grand Lodge in future, until another time he publicly owns his fault, and his grace be granted.

8. No motion for a new regulation, or for the alteration of an old one, shall be made until it be first handed up in writing to the chair; and after it has been perused by the Grand Master, the thing may be moved publicly, and then audibly read by the secretary; and if it is then seconded and thirded, it must immediately be submitted to the consideration of the whole assembly, that the sense of the lodge may be fully heard upon it; after which the question shall be put, pro or con.

9. In order to preserve harmony, it was thought necessary to use counters and a balloting box when occasion requires; at other times by holding up of hands, or by putting the question aye or no.

## CHAP. IV.

*Of the Election, Office and duty of the Grand Officers of Virginia.*

**T**HE election of Grand Officers shall be on the October stated communication annually, and shall be the first business that comes properly before the lodge, after receiving the reports of the subordinate lodges represented. And the lodge being opened in ample form, the most worshipful Master shall direct the lodge to proceed to the choice of Grand Officers for the ensuing year.

SECT. 1. *Of the Election of the Grand Master.*

The most worshipful Master in the chair, shall call on the lodge to nominate some eminent and skilful brother or brethren for the office of Grand Master;—should there be but one in the nomination, it shall be the indispensable duty of the most worshipful to nominate one other in the opposition; but if the present Grand Master is again† eligible, and is then in the chair, and willing to serve another year, he shall direct his deputy to nominate the one in opposition: (the Grand Master shall if eligible, be at all times in the nomination) the members shall then be directed to prepare their ballots for one of the brethren in the nomination, and when done, shall be collected by one of the deacons; the worshipful Master shall then call on two of the members to examine the ballots, and deliver to him in writing, the number of votes each candidate shall have; when the worshipful Master shall cause the brother having

† See the 2d article, 4th section, chap. 3, of particular regulations for the Grand Lodge of Virginia; by those regulations, the Grand Master is eligible 4 years successively, and the other Grand Officers two years.

the greatest number of votes, to be thrice proclaimed aloud by the secretary.

### GRAND MASTER OF MASONS.

The most worshipful shall then cause the Grand Master elect, to be conducted to the chair, and after introducing him to the members as a brother skilled in the royal art, and a lover of the craft, shall be clothed with the badges of the office, and installed in due form.

All the members shall then salute him according to the ancient and laudable customs of masonry.

#### SECT. 2. *Of the Election or Appointment of the Deputy Grand Master.*

The Master elect shall then nominate and appoint the deputy Grand Master as being his inherent right, because as the Grand Master is generally a brother of the first eminence and abilities, and long experience, and cannot be supposed to give his attendance on every emergency; it hath always been adjudged needful, not only to allow him a deputy, but that such deputy should be a person in whom he can perfectly confide, and with whom he can have full harmony—for which reason it is proper that the Grand Master should have the nomination of his deputy. Although cases may arise when the Grand Lodge may exercise the right of rejecting the Grand Master's nomination, and of choosing for themselves; of which case (although they seldom happen) the majority of the lodge can only be judges.

The deputy Grand Master being thus chosen, or appointed as above, he shall be introduced, installed congratulated, and saluted in due form as before.

**SECT. 3. *Of the Election of Grand Senior Wardens.***

The Grand Master elect, shall then nominate some skilful brother as senior Warden, and the lodge have the unalienable right of nominating one or more in opposition; (for an opposition is essentially necessary in the choice of all the officers) and the person having the greatest majority of votes, or ballots, (still preserving due harmony) is declared, as before, duly elected.

The senior Warden being thus elected, he shall be introduced, installed and saluted in due form as before.

**SECT. 4. *Of the Election of the Junior Grand Warden.***

The election of the junior Warden is precisely in the same manner as the senior Warden: but sometimes for the sake of dispatch, both the Wardens are elected together in balloting, by writing senior opposite the name of one of the candidates, and junior opposite the name of another.

**SECT. 5. *Of the Appointment and Office of Grand Secretary.***

The office of Grand Secretary hath always been of very great importance in the Grand Lodge, from the multiplicity of matters committed to his care; and from the abilities and learning requisite in the management of them. All the transactions of the lodge are to be drawn into form, and duly recorded by him. All petitions, applications and appeals, are to pass through his hands. No warrant, certificate, or instrument of writing from the Grand Lodge is authentic, without his attestation or signature, and his affixing the grand seal as the laws require. The general correspondence with lodges and brethren over the whole world, is to be managed

by him agreeable to the voice of the Grand Lodge, and directions of the Grand Master, or his deputy; and he must therefore be always ready to attend with his assistant or clerk; and the books of his lodge in order, to give all necessary information concerning the general state of matters, and what is proper to be done upon an emergency.

For this reason, at every annual election of Grand Officers, the nomination or appointment of the Grand Secretary is considered as the inherent right of the Grand Master, being properly his amanuensis, and an officer, as necessary to him as his deputy. It is therefore held under the old regulations, which yet stand unrepealed; that if the Grand Lodge should disapprove either of the Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Secretary, they cannot disannul their appointment, without chusing a new Grand Master; by which all his appointments are rendered void. But this is a case which hath but very seldom happened, and which all true Masons hope there never will be any occasion to make a provision against.

The Grand Secretary by virtue of his office, is a member of the Grand Lodge, and hath a right to vote in common with the Wardens in every thing, except in chusing Grand Officers; he also hath the right of appointing his own deputy, or assistant Grand Secretary or Clerk—but such deputy or clerk must be a Master Mason, yet shall not by virtue of that appointment, be a member of the Grand Lodge, nor speak without being allowed or asked, unless he hath otherwise a right, by being either a past Grand Officer, or past Master, or Deputy of some regular private Lodge, within this jurisdiction.

SECT. 6. *Of the Election and Office of Grand Treasurer.*

The Grand Treasurer is elected by the body of the Grand Lodge, in the same manner as the Grand Wardens; he being considered as an officer peculiarly responsible to all the members in due form assembled, as having the charge of their common stock and property. For to him is committed the care of all money raised for the general charity, and other uses of the Grand Lodge; an account of which, he is regularly to enter into a book, with the respective ends and uses for which the several sums are intended. He is likewise to pay out, or disburse the same upon such orders, signed, as the rules of the Grand Lodge in this respect, shall allow valid.

The Grand Treasurer, by virtue of his office, is a member of the Grand Lodge, and hath power to move the same in any matter that concerns his office, and may vote in common with the Grand Wardens; he hath a right to appoint an assistant or clerk, who must be a Master Mason, but shall have no vote, nor be a member of the Grand Lodge, nor allowed to speak without permission, unless otherwise entitled to a seat, as having been a past Officer of the Grand Lodge, or past Master or Deputy of some regular private Lodge, within this jurisdiction.

The Grand Treasurer, or his assistant, shall always be present in the Lodge, and ready to attend the Grand Master and other Grand Officers, with his books for inspection when required; and likewise any Grand committee that may be appointed for examining and adjusting the accounts.



SECT. 7. *Of the Grand Tyler and Pursuivant.*

These officers must be Master Masons, but none of them are members of the Grand Lodge, nor allowed to speak to any matter before the Lodge, without permission.

The Tyler's duty is to look after the door on the outward side, to see that none but members enter in; and not even them, if the Lodge is opened, without first informing the Grand Master (through the channel of the Pursuivant) of their being at the door, and wishing to enter. The Tyler is also to summon the members on any special occasion or emergency, by order of the Grand Master or his deputy, signified to him under the hand of the Grand Secretary, or his clerk.

The business of the Pursuivant is to stand at the inward door of the Grand Lodge, and to report the names and titles of all that want admission, as reported to him by the Tyler: he is also to go upon messages while the Lodge is open, and perform sundry other services known only in the Lodge.

SECT. 8. *Of the Grand Deacons.*

The Grand Deacons, whose duty is well known in the Grand Lodge, as particular assistants to the Grand Master and Senior Warden, in conducting the business of the Lodge; are always members of the same, so long as they continue in their office, and are most commonly elected by the Lodge as other Grand Officers; though the appointment of right belongs to the Grand Master and Senior Warden, and may be appointed annually, or on every Lodge night.

## CHAP. V.

*Regulations for Charity to be observed in the Grand Lodge of Virginia.*

1. **T**HE committee of charity, commonly called the Steward's Lodge, consists of all the present Grand Officers, all past Grand Masters and Wardens, and all past Masters of regular private lodges, within this jurisdiction; the Grand Secretary and Treasurer, and such other members as the Grand Lodge may on the day of annual election appoint, any five of whom, for the sake of expedition shall be a quorum, whose business shall be to meet four stated times in the year, viz. April 1<sup>st</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup>. October 1<sup>st</sup>. and January 1<sup>st</sup>. (except those days happen on a Sunday, in which case the next day;) and as often at other times as may be deemed necessary, to hear all petitions, &c. and to order such relief to distressed brethren, as their case may require, and prudence may direct. It shall also be the duty of this lodge to examine the Treasurer's accounts, and report at every Grand Communication, the state of the funds.

2. None but registered Masons who have themselves contributed to the Grand Lodge charity fund, and were members of a warranted lodge during that time, can be considered and relieved. Sojourners and travelling masons, if duly certified and recommended, are to be relieved by private contributions, made for them on the occasion, or out of the general fund, as the majority shall think proper.

3. The petitioners for relief, (if within any convenient distance, or unless detained by sickness, or some other reasonable cause) must attend the lodge or committee in person, and prove to their satisfaction, that

he or they have been formerly in reputable, or at least in tolerable circumstances, and that they have not from any cause forfeited their privileges as Masons. And although any brother may send in a petition or recommendation, (yet none can be admitted to see and hear the debates) except the members of the lodge or committee.

4. It is the inherent right of this committee to dispose of the grand charity under the aforesaid restrictions, and to such as appear really necessitous and deserving, either by weekly support or otherwise, as to them shall seem meet; provided always, that no brother made in a clandestine manner, nor any brother who has ever assisted in any clandestine making, can ever be qualified to receive any assistance out of the said fund.

5. All the transactions of this committee of charity or Steward's lodge, are to be regularly entered of record, and audibly read by the Grand Secretary before all the members of the Grand Lodge, at their annual Grand Communication in October.

## CHAP. VI.

### *Of Grand Visitations and Communications.*

**A**LL the different lodges in the same general communication, should as much as possible observe the same rules and usages. *Solomon, my son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments, and remove not the ancient land-mark, which thy fathers have set.*

And to this end it shall be the duty of the Grand Master, or in his absence the presiding officer, on the lodge of annual election, to appoint some of the grand officers, or other skilful past grand officers or past masters, to visit all the lodges within the communication, and see that the ancient customs and usages are strictly observed. And as this laudable duty has become impracticable, from the extent of their jurisdiction and large number of lodges, for the brethren before mentioned, to perform the whole of this duty collectively; the Grand Master shall cause the lodges to be laid off in convenient districts, and allot one or more visitors to each district, with such other assistants as may be thought proper; who shall make faithful report of their proceedings to the Grand Communication annually, according to the instructions given them.

The brethren so appointed, shall have a dispensation signed by the Grand Master or his Deputy, and attested by the Secretary, with the seal of the Grand Lodge, explaining the nature of their business, whose duty it shall be, to visit every lodge of his district at one of their stated meetings; previously notifying to the lodge, the intended time of visiting them.



Mr. G. F. Denoon  
Book

June 19<sup>th</sup> 1885  
1144

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were the same as all  
the world over & the  
same to the people  
of the world.

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*Ar. nit. adriatic.*

2000

August 2nd 1886.

thought!

SECOND.



SUCH REGULATIONS

OF A

GENERAL AND PERMANENT NATURE,

*AS HAVE BEEN PASSED*

BY THE

**GRAND LODGE,**

*SINCE THE PUBLICATION*

OF THE

**NEW AHIMAN REZON,**

*UP TO 11th DECEMBER, 1817.*





# GENERAL AND *Permanent Regulations.*

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## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1793.

1st. *Resolved*, That every newly constituted Lodge, <sup>1793.</sup>  
in future, shall be furnished with a book of Constitu- <sup>October 30</sup>  
tions, at the expence of the Grand Lodge, to accom-  
pany the charter.

Whereas it appears, that the Quarterly Meetings of  
the Grand Lodge, are productive of no advantage to  
the Craft, and that many inconveniences result there-  
from:

2d. *Resolved*, That in future, these meetings be dis-  
continued.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1794.

1st. *Resolved*, That the Grand Master lay before the <sup>1794.</sup>  
Grand Lodge, minutes of all his proceedings during November  
the recess; which shall be read previously to the election  
of officers.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1794.

1794. *2d. Resolved*, That in future, any Lodge under the  
 November jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and *not within this Commonwealth*, may be represented by any eminent brother or brethren, not a member or members of such Lodge; provided that *no brother shall represent two Lodges*.

*3d. Resolved*; That the Grand Secretary be directed to send out lists of such contributions as have been paid to the Grand Lodge, during the last and present communications, and that in future, it shall be his duty to forward such lists after every communication.

*4th: Resolved*; That the Grand Lodge in future, hold their annual communication on the fourth Monday in November.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1795.

1795. *Whereas* it appears, that for the want of regular  
 November communications from the different Lodges to the Grand Master, that Masonry is liable to many impositions, by the Grand Master granting dispensations, to initiate men of objectionable characters:

*1st. Resolved therefore*, That instructions be given to the Masters of the different Lodges to transmit immediately to the Grand Secretary, an account of all rejections, expulsions, &c. that may occur: to the end that the Grand Master may be able to know, when an imposition of a kind so destructive to the Craft, may offer.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

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### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1795.

On the petition of Brother Nathaniel W. Price, stating that he had regularly served as Master of the Richmond Lodge, No. 10, for six months; owing to the resignation of the elected Master, and praying therefore to be ranked as a past Master: 1795.  
November

2d. *Resolved*, That no person is eligible to that rank, but those who have regularly had the suffrage of the majority of their Lodge.

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1796.

1st. *Resolved*, That nothing contained in the fourth section of the third chapter, of the Ahiman Rezon, shall be so interpreted, as to exclude from a re-election to his office, any officer of the Grand Lodge, below the dignity of Junior Grand Warden. 1796.  
November

2d. *Resolved*, That the Inspectors which may hereafter be appointed to visit the subordinate Lodges, be directed, not only to report on the state and proceedings of the Lodges; but also to instruct the officers of each Lodge, in the proper mode of working: in order that an uniform method may be established throughout the communication.

3d. *Resolved*, That in future no person shall be allowed to take his seat, as a representative to the Grand Lodge, without the requisites expressed in the book of constitution.

## GENERAL AND

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1796.

1796.  
November 4th. *Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge do direct their Secretary, to transmit a copy of their proceedings to every Grand Lodge, in North America and Europe, accompanied with a masonic letter, requesting a constant correspondence.

Whereas it appears, that the expenses of the Grand Lodge are extravagant, and tend to the injury of the charity fund;

5th. *Resolved therefore*, That a Steward's Lodge be appointed, to regulate the same, agreeably to ancient custom.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1797.

1797.  
November 29th. 1st. *Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Virginia make it an invariable rule in future, that no charter or dispensation to constitute a Lodge, shall be granted to any number of Masons residing in any other state where a Grand Lodge adopting the principle is held; except such Grand Lodge shall furnish the petitioners with a written acquiescence, properly authenticated.

2d. *Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Virginia will not hold any communication with any Lodge in this State, which shall in future, be constituted by the authority of any other Grand Lodge.

Whereas it appears from the records of this Grand Lodge, that there have been several communications

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

69

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1797.

received, from the different Grand Lodges, established in North America, requesting the Grand Lodge of Virginia to fraternize with them by letter, and to send them the laws and regulations of our said Grand Lodge, as also a list of the officers thereof: 1797.  
November  
29th.

3d. *Resolved therefore*, That the Grand Secretary be directed to write a letter to each of the Grand Lodges in North America, in answer to those received from them, and also a circular letter to those who have not yet corresponded with us.

4th. *Resolved also*, That the Grand Secretary be directed to write circular letters to all the Grand Lodges known to be established in Europe.

5th. *Resolved*, That in future, whenever the Most Worshipful Grand Master shall issue a Dispensation to an Inspector to visit the Lodges within this communication, the said Inspector shall be authorised to draw upon the Grand Treasurer, for his necessary travelling expenses, of which he shall render an accurate statement, at the next succeeding Grand Communication,

6th. *Resolved*, That no candidate for initiation, who shall be rejected in any Lodge, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall be eligible to a second recommendation, in that, or any other such Lodge, until the expiration of twelve months.

7th. *Resolved also*, That it be the duty of every Master of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, to cause his Secretary to notify the Grand Secretary immediately, of every rejection that may happen in his Lodge.

## GENERAL AND

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1797.

1797.  
November  
29th. 8th. *Resolved also*, That it be the duty of the Grand Secretary, to give immediate information to every Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, of every such notification.

9th. *Resolved*, That the Grand Annual Communication be hereafter held on the second Monday in December, in every year.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1798.

1798.  
December  
11th. 1st. The decision of the Grand Lodge being desired on the following question, viz. "Is it indispensibly necessary that the subordinate Lodges insert in their returns to the Grand Lodge, the names of those brethren who may apply to become members, and be rejected?" On the question being put, it was resolved in the negative.

2d. The decision of the Grand Lodge being desired on the following question, viz. "Is there any impropriety in a Brother being a member of more than one chartered Lodge, at one and the same time?" On the question being put, it was resolved in the negative.

3d. *Resolved*, That every Brother who may be charged with unmaasonic conduct, shall in due time be furnished with a copy of the charges to be exhibited against him, if they be of a nature that will admit of being written; if they be not, the said charges shall be made known to him by a Committee, to be appointed for that purpose.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1796.

4th. Should any Brother whose conduct has been regularly impeached, fail to attend the summons of the Lodge, or of the Committee, appointed to examine into his said conduct, such Brother, so failing, shall stand suspended from all the benefits of Masonry, until he do come forward, and answer to the charges alleged against him. 1796.  
December  
11th.

5th. *Resolved*, That in all cases of election of Officers, the suffrages of a majority of all the members present, who are entitled to vote, shall be necessary to constitute a proper election.

Whereas the third section of the first chapter of the Book of Constitution, in setting forth the bodily qualifications necessary in candidates for initiation, requires that *every person desiring admission, must be upright in body, not deformed or dismembered at the time of making, but of hale and entire limbs as a man ought to be*; and whereas the literal observance of the said requisition, were it constantly and rigidly enforced, might operate to the exclusion of many persons, otherwise qualified to become useful and ornamental members of our Society; therefore December  
12th.

6th. *Resolved*, That corporeal deformity in a candidate for initiation, shall not be considered a sufficient reason for rejecting him; unless his deformity shall be such, as to render him incapable of pursuing his worldly avocations; or likely to prevent him from procuring a livelihood, in case he should be necessitated so to do. ✓

7th. *Resolved*, That if any member of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall visit



## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1798.

1798. or work in any Lodge of Masons, commonly called  
 December 12th. *Modern Masons*, or any lodge of Masons not working agreeably to the ancient usages of *York Masons*, he shall be reprimanded by the Lodge to which he belongs, and if he should afterwards be guilty of a similar offence, he shall be expelled from the Lodge, and be excluded from the benefits of Masonry.

8th. *Resolved*, That in all cases of advancement from one degree to another, it shall be necessary that the Brother wishing to be advanced, undergo an examination in open Lodge, in the degree from which he is to be advanced; after which his eligibility to such advancement shall be decided by ballot, and the suffrages of the majority present, shall determine on the subject.

December 13th. 9th. *Resolved*, That in future, no Brother shall be admitted as a visitor to this Grand Lodge, unless he pay to the Grand Treasurer, one dollar on every admission, as a contribution towards the Grand Charity Fund. Provided, that this Resolution shall not operate to the exclusion of any Brother, whose circumstances may not admit of the payment of the said dollar.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

73

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1799.

1st. The following question was submitted to the Grand Lodge for decision, viz. "Is any member of  
"this Grand Lodge eligible to any office therein?" and the question being put, it was determined in the affirmative.

1799.  
December  
9th.

Whereas that part of our book of Ahiman Rezon which points out the mode of electing the Master and other Officers, appears to be so worded, as to admit of a construction, that will authorise semi-annual elections, therefore,

December  
11th.

2d. *Resolved*, That the elections of officers, in all the Lodges, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall be annual, and that this resolution shall take place, in each Lodge, at its next election of Officers respectively.

3d. *Resolved*, That should any Brother resident in Virginia, who may not belong to any Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, deport himself so immorally, as to merit the reprobation of his brethren; the subordinate Lodge, nearest to the place of his residence, shall have power to take cognizance of such reprehensible conduct, in the same manner, as if the said Brother were a member of that Lodge.

Whereas some doubts have been entertained, whether the subordinate Lodges have the power of suspending, or expelling members, for not complying with the rules and by-laws of their Lodges respectively.

4th. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge, that the power of suspension, and expulsion, in such cases, always hath been, and now is, inherent

## GENERAL AND

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1799.

1799. in every Lodge within this jurisdiction: provided al-  
 December ways, that the right of appeal, to this Grand Lodge,  
 11th. can in no wise be weakened or affected.

December Whereas it is strictly enjoined in our book of Ahi-  
 13th. man Rezon, and solemnly incumbent on every Lodge,  
 as well as among the express terms on which charters  
 are granted and received, that the subordinate Lodges  
 shall be pointed, in sending their representatives, or  
 proxies, to attend the annual meetings of the Grand  
 Lodge, and in the regular payment of their yearly con-  
 tributions: And whereas great detriment has arisen, and  
 still continues to arise, to the Craft, from the remissness  
 of several of the Lodges in these respects, therefore

3th. *Resolved*, That should any subordinate Lodge  
 fail, in their attendance, at the annual meetings of the  
 Grand Lodge, or in the discharge of their contribution  
 towards the Grand Charity Fund, for three years suc-  
 cessively, such Lodge, so failing, shall thereby be sus-  
 pended, and all its workings thereafter, be considered  
 as null and void, until it shall be regularly reinstated.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1800.

1800.  
 December  
 10th.

1st. *Resolved*, That no Master of a Lodge, or regu-  
 lar Past Master, can without his own consent previously  
 obtained, be called to an account, or tried for miscon-  
 duct, before any other body than the Grand Lodge, or  
 a Committee to be appointed by the Grand Lodge, or  
 the Grand Master.

# PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

25

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1790.

2d. *Resolved*, That in order to promote uniformity of working, in the different subordinate Lodges, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, nominate during the present, and on the first evening of every succeeding Grand Annual Communication, some expert Masons, not less than five in number, who, after having conferred together, and agreed upon the mode of working, which, in their judgments, shall most conform with the ancient usages of Masonry, shall appoint one of their own body, whose duty it shall be, on the second night of the said communication, to exemplify the same, in open Lodge, in the three degrees of Masonry. 1790. December 10th.

3d. *Resolved*, That hereafter it be the duty of the Grand Secretary, annually, to annex to the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, an accurate list of the Officers and Members of every Lodge under our jurisdiction.

4th. *Resolved*, That the proviso in the 6th section of the 6th chapter of the printed "Extracts from the records of the Grand Lodge"\* be extended, to exempt from the payment of one dollar, for the admission of visitants, such as may attend on business with the Grand Lodge.

Whereas it may happen, from a variety of causes, that the Grand Steward's Committee may fail to make such provision, under such regulations, as may be necessary for the accommodation of the Grand Lodge: therefore to prevent the inconveniences which would result from such failure,

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\* The proviso here alluded to, will be found annexed to a Resolution passed 13th December, 1798.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1800.

1800.  
December  
10th.

4th. *Resolved*, That previous to every Grand Annual Communication, and during the continuance thereof, from time to time, as may be necessary, it shall be the duty of the Grand Stewards, to submit to the Grand Steward's Committee, an estimate of the expenses necessary, in their opinion, to be incurred, for the accommodation of the Grand Lodge; and such estimate being approved by the acting member, or members, of the said Committee, it shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer, forthwith, on application, to pay the amount of such estimate, to the Grand Stewards, who are hereby authorised to appropriate the same accordingly, and, to controul the use of the articles, which may be so provided, for the use of the Grand Lodge.

6th. *Resolved*, That the resolution entered into, at the last Grand Annual Communication, requiring the subordinate Lodges to elect their officers annually, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

7th. *Resolved*, That the Lodges working under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, may in future, elect their officers annually, or semi-annually, as by their by-laws they may please to direct.

# PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

77

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1801.

Whereas some doubts have arisen as to the difference in the nature and operation, between a suspension and an expulsion. 1801.  
December  
15th.

1st. *Resolved*, That in all cases of suspension, the person suspended, is thereby absolutely precluded from all and every the benefits and privileges of Masonry throughout the masonic world, during the term of his said suspension.

2d. *Resolved*, That in all cases of expulsion, the person expelled is thereby absolutely precluded from all and every the benefits and privileges of Masonry, throughout the masonic world, forever: Provided always, that the Lodge imposing a suspension or expulsion shall have the power of reinstatement: And provided also, that the inherent right of appeal to the Grand Lodge, in all cases, as heretofore, shall in no wise be weakened or affected.

3d. The following question was by Lodge No. 39, submitted to the decision of the Grand Lodge, viz. December  
17th.  
“Is a member of a Lodge under a dispensation considered as a member under a subsequent charter?” And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

4th. *Resolved*, That every Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, always hath had an inherent right to enact, and enforce its own by-laws, with respect to monthly, quarterly, and annual fees, and fines for non-attendance.

Whereas it appears necessary to point out what steps are to be taken when a Lodge shall wish to return its Charter to the Grand Lodge,

# GENERAL AND

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1801.

1801.  
December  
27th. *4th. Resolved*, That in such case, such Lodge shall be convened by summonses, issued, at least one month previous to the meeting, and expressive of the special purpose contemplated.

*5th. Resolved*, That when it shall be resolved by any Lodge to return its Charter to the Grand Lodge, the reasons on which such resolution is founded shall be entered of record.

*7th. Resolved*, That immediately after the passage of such resolution, a schedule shall be made out, and entered of record, of all the books, papers, jewels, furniture, funds, &c. belonging to the Lodge: And also, a list of all the creditors of, and debtors to the Lodge.

*8th. Resolved*, That when these measures have been taken, it shall be the duty of such Lodge, to cause to be laid before the Grand Lodge, at the next succeeding Grand Annual Communication, an entire copy of their whole proceedings, with the reasons, schedule, and list aforesaid, in order that the Grand Lodge may determine on the case of such Lodge.

*9th. Resolved*, That hereafter, the election of all the officers of the Grand Lodge, shall take place on the second night of each Grand Annual Communication, and that the present officers, and those which may hereafter be elected, shall hold their offices until an election shall be made.

*10th. Resolved*, That at the present and every succeeding Grand Annual Communication, it shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer, to render his accounts up to the close of the Grand Lodge.

# PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

70

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1821.

11th. *Resolved*, That no member of the Grand Lodge, shall, in any case have two votes, except the Grand Master in the case of an equal division. 1821.  
December  
17th.

12th. *Resolved*, That the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, the Grand Secretary and Treasurer, or any four of them be a Committee, with the assistance of, and communication with all the Lodges under this jurisdiction, in any manner they may adopt, to select proper objects, among whom shall be distributed, the surplus of any money that may remain in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, after discharging the several claims against the Grand Lodge, and the appropriations made, or to be made, during the sitting thereof, leaving only two hundred dollars in the hands of the Grand Treasurer.\*

13th. *Resolved*, That no resolution which has for its object the introduction of a new regulation in the constitution of the Grand Lodge, or the alteration of an existing one, shall be acted upon, unless it be handed up in writing to the chair, on the first night of the Grand Annual Communication, and audibly read by the Grand Secretary, after which it must be referred to the Grand Committee, for consideration, and after being reported on, by the Committee, it shall be finally determined. December  
18th.

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\* It seems uncertain whether the above Resolution was intended to be of a permanent or temporary nature. It is however of little importance which character is now attached to it, since the Resolutions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of December 1813, and another passed in 1814, have left it nothing to act on, and as to every practical purpose, have operated its complete repeal.



## GENERAL AND

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1801.

1801.  
December  
18th.

14th. *Resolved*, in lieu of the resolution passed at last Grand Communication, that at each and every Grand Annual Communication, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master for the time being, to exemplify in open Lodge the third degree, of the Deputy Grand Master to exemplify the second degree, and of the Senior Grand Warden to exemplify the first degree, which exemplifications shall take place, previously to the election of Grand Officers.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1803.

1803.  
December  
14th.

1st. *Resolved*, That Section 10, of Chapter 1, of the General Regulations,\* be, and it is hereby amended, so as to permit the introduction of any new regulation, or any amendment to the constitution, on the second as well as on the first evening of every Grand Annual Communication.

2d. *Resolved*, That whenever any Lodge shall determine to return its Charter to the Grand Lodge; and such determination shall be confirmed by the Grand Lodge, or when a Lodge shall be declared dormant or extinct, the books, papers, furniture, funds, and every thing else belonging to such Lodge, shall come under

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\* The Section here alluded to, is a Resolution passed on the 18th of December 1801.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

81

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1803.

the controul, direction and safe-keeping of the Grand Lodge, as the paternal representative of the craft, throughout its jurisdiction. 1803. December 14th.

3d. *Resolved*, That whenever it shall be made a question, in a private Lodge, to return its Charter to the Grand Lodge, the said Lodge shall be convened by summonses, issued at least one month before the first discussion of the question of returning the Charter shall be had; and the Tyler, or person appointed to summon the brethren, shall make due return of the persons summoned. And that the concurrence of a majority of at least two thirds of the members present shall be necessary, before the proposition for returning the Charter, shall be entered of record. If such majority be found, this proposition shall lie over until the next regular meeting of the Lodge, and summonses, and return thereof, shall in like manner be made. At the said next regular meeting of the Lodge, the subject shall again be discussed, and if there shall be two thirds of the attending members in favour of giving up the Charter, the same proceedings shall be pursued, and the same returns made as have been heretofore pointed out, and the Grand Lodge will, at the next Grand Annual Communication, on thus possessing the whole subject, decide on the case of such Lodge, and decree what shall be right and proper.

4th. *Resolved*, That the subordinate Lodges ought not to interfere in disputes between Brethren, of a pecuniary nature, except by request, or consent of all parties interested. December 15th.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1804.

1804.  
December  
12th. 1st. *Resolved*, That whenever a vacancy shall happen, either by the death, removal, or resignation of any officer of a subordinate Lodge, such vacancy shall be filled up, either at the next stated meeting, or at a meeting specially called, by the Master, or presiding Warden for that purpose.

2d. *Resolved*, That in future exemplifications and illustrations of the three degrees of Masonry, shall be made by some one of a Committee to be appointed for that purpose, whenever it shall be deemed necessary by the Grand Lodge.

*December 12<sup>th</sup> / 1804. Now a  
book in the world's history.*

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1805.

1805.  
December  
11th. 1st. *Resolved*, That in future no Brother shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Warden, unless he be a regular Past Master, or Master of a regular Lodge.

2d. *Resolved*, That at every succeeding Grand Annual Communication, the strictest regard to economy in the department of the Grand Stewards, consistent with the comfort of the brethren, ought to be observed.

3d. *Resolved therefore*, That previously to each Grand Annual Communication, the Grand Stewards shall wait on, at least two members of the Grand Steward's Committee, and from them obtain sanction, to a specific bill of fare, which shall, in no wise, be by said Grand Stewards exceeded.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

23

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1806.

Whereas it is essential to the promotion of an uniform mode of working throughout the communication, as well as to the advancement of the interests of our society generally, that each Lodge should occasionally be visited by an Officer of the Grand Lodge. And whereas the widely dispersed situation of the Lodges under this jurisdiction, renders it impracticable for the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master to whom the duty appertains, to visit them in person, therefore

1806.  
December  
9th.

1st. *Resolved*, That as soon after the end of the present, and every succeeding Grand Annual Communication as may be, the Grand Master for the time being, shall cause the Lodges under this jurisdiction, to be laid off in convenient districts, and shall appoint to each district some Master of a Lodge or Past Master, of respectability and masonic skill, as District Deputy Grand Master, which appointment shall continue in force, until the Grand Annual Communication next succeeding the date thereof, unless sooner revoked by the Grand Master, by whom it shall have been made.

2d. Every District Deputy Grand Master so appointed, shall be furnished with a warrant of his appointment, signed by the Grand Master or his Deputy, and attested by the Grand Secretary, with the seal of the Grand Lodge affixed.

3d. The duties of the District Deputy Grand Masters shall be as follow, and each of them, by virtue of his appointment, shall possess full power and authority to carry these duties into full effect, that is,

4th. Every District Deputy Grand Master shall visit every Lodge in his District, at a stated meeting, at

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1806.

1806.  
December  
9th. least once during the term of his appointment, of which visit he shall give the Master or Secretary of the Lodge timely notice.

5th. At every such visit the District Deputy Grand Master is to preside in the Lodge, after it is opened and he is introduced. He is to examine the records of the Lodge, and see if they are regularly kept: To inform himself of the number of members, and whether they are generally punctual in their attendance: To enquire whether the Lodge be in a flourishing or declining state: To point out any errors he may happen to observe in their conduct or manner of working: To instruct them in every particular wherein he may conceive them to be in need of it: To recommend attention to the moral and benevolent principles of our institution, caution in the admission of candidates, and a punctual representation of their Lodge at every meeting of the Grand Lodge.

6th. When any District Deputy Grand Master shall discover, either in his own district, or in any other part of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, any masonic error, or evil, whether it appertains to an individual or to a lodge, he shall immediately endeavour, by masonic means, to arrest its progress, and if he shall judge it expedient he is forthwith to forward to the Grand Master or Grand Secretary full information of the whole subject.

7th. Previously to every annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, every District Deputy Grand Master shall, so far as is proper to be done, make out in writing a candid and faithful report of the state of each Lodge in his district, and forward it to the Grand Secretary to be laid before the Grand Lodge.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

85

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1806.

8th. Immediately after every appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters, as aforesaid, the Grand Secretary is to forward to each of the subordinate Lodges, a list of the names of the persons appointed, with the lodges composing the districts, placed under their superintendence respectively.

1806.  
December  
9th.

9th. In the Grand Lodge the District Deputy Grand Masters shall sit as a distinct body, and in all questions shall have one vote collectively.

10th. All former laws, ordinances, and regulations whatever of this Grand Lodge, relative to Grand visitations and inspectors, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1807.

Whereas it appears, as well from the report of the Grand Treasurer, as from general experience, to be impracticable to keep a correct statement of accounts with the subordinate lodges respectively, while no lodge can be charged with any specific sum, therefore

1807.  
December  
15th.

1st. *Resolved*, That from and after the present Grand Annual Communication, every subordinate lodge shall pay annually, as a contribution to this Grand Lodge, the sum of fifty cents for each member of such subordinate lodge, according to the returns made, and in every case where a lodge shall fail to make a return,

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1807.

1807. the lodge so failing shall be charged by the Grand Treasurer according to the last return received. Provided  
December 15th. always, that no lodge shall pay or be charged with less than ten dollars, or be required to contribute more than twenty dollars annually.

December 16th. 2d. *Resolved*, That it be the duty of the Grand Secretary and of the Grand Treasurer, hereafter on the day appointed for the commencement of each Grand Annual Communication, to attend the Grand Lodge precisely at half past 4 o'clock, P. M. the former for the purpose of receiving credentials and enregistering the names of the representatives; the latter, for the purpose of receiving the annual contributions; at which hour it shall be the duty of the representatives also to attend, so that the Grand Lodge may proceed to business precisely at 6 o'clock.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1810.

1810. 1st. *Resolved*, That the Grand Master be, and he is  
December 12th. hereby requested to permit visiting brethren to enter and take their seats in the Grand Lodge before it be opened.

2d. *Resolved*, That the Grand Stewards, have it strictly in charge, not to admit on any account, any brother into either of the rooms set apart for their department, except the actual members of the Grand Lodge, and those who are regularly admitted as visitors.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

87

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1810.

3d. *Resolved*, That it be the duty of each District Deputy Grand Master, to give to every Lodge, at least five weeks notice of his intended visit. 1810. December 12th.

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1811.

1st. *Resolved*, That Balloting in the subordinate Lodges in all cases of admission, suspension, and expulsion, be confined to Master Masons. 1811. December 10th.

Whereas in cases of appeal to the Grand Lodge, from any vote, ballot, or resolution of any subordinate lodge, it is necessary to have a copy of the whole of the written proceedings in such case, present at the consideration of such appeal, 1811. December 11th.

2d. *Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the Master of every Lodge, in all cases of appeal, forthwith to cause a copy of such proceedings to be forwarded to the Grand Secretary. But no copy of such proceedings shall be granted to any Brother whatever.



## GENERAL AND

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1812.

1812.  
December  
16th.

1st. *Resolved*, That in future, the Past Grand Masters, and Past Deputy Grand Masters shall vote, as a collective body, unconnected with the Past Masters.

2d. *Resolved*, That in the election of Grand Officers any brother who is a member of this Grand Lodge (provided he be otherwise qualified) may be elected to any office whether he be present or absent.

3d. *Resolved*, That every subordinate Lodge, in future, that shall fail to send their contribution, or to make a return of its members, shall be chargeable, on the books of the Grand Treasurer with the sum of twenty dollars, and when a return shall be made, without the contribution, the Grand Secretary shall furnish the Grand Treasurer with the amount of contribution due from such Lodge.

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1813.

1813.  
December  
15th.

1st. *Resolved*, That no Brother residing in the State of Virginia, can be a member of this Grand Lodge, unless he is actually a contributing member of some chartered lodge under its jurisdiction.

2d. *Resolved*, That after the adjournment of the present Grand Annual Communication, all future meetings shall be held by 4 o'clock, in the evening of the second Monday in every December.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

89.

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1813.

3d. *Resolved*, That a permanent charity fund be established by the Grand Lodge of Virginia in manner and form following. 1813. December 15th.

4th. *Resolved*, That all the cash that shall remain in the Grand Treasurer's hands after the expenses of the current year shall have been discharged, and, in future, the surplus after discharging all the necessary expenses of each Grand Annual Communication, all Charter and Dispensation fees, and all fees arising from affixing the seal of the Grand Lodge, shall be appropriated to the said fund.

5th. *Resolved*, That all the monies which may thus accrue to the Grand Charity fund, be laid out in some public stock under the direction of and in the name of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer and their successors in office, who are hereby appointed to take charge of the said fund and report the state thereof to the Grand Lodge at each annual Grand Communication.

6th. *Resolved*, That the interest alone arising out of the said stock shall be applied to the said purpose of educating Master Masons' orphans and relieving their distressed widows, and that the principal shall remain untouched.

7th. *Resolved*, That there shall be a subscription paper opened in every Lodge and presented to the Brethren on each St. John's day for the purpose of receiving their voluntary donations in aid of the fund aforesaid.

## GENERAL AND

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1813.

1813.  
December  
15th.

8th. *Resolved*, That as soon as the nett annual proceeds of the said fund shall be one hundred dollars, the Grand Lodge may then and not till then, at their Grand Annual Communication, dispose of the said annual proceeds, in such way as to them, in their wisdom and discretion may seem best in educating the orphan children and relieving the distressed widows of Master Masons, and that all the lodges may have an equal opportunity of making their wishes known as to the appropriation of said fund,

9th. *Resolved*, That every proposition for disposing of the nett proceeds of the said fund, shall be made and decided on, either on the first or second night of each Grand Annual Communication.

10th. *Resolved*, That the annual quotas to the Mutual Assurance Society against fire on Buildings in the State of Virginia, on the Masons' Hall in the City of Richmond, owned by Lodges No's. 10 and 19, be paid out of the funds of the Grand Lodge.

## REGULATION PASSED IN 1814.

1814.  
December  
14th.

The important purpose designed by the Grand Lodge, at the last Grand Annual Communication, in raising a permanent Charity Fund, and the belief that casual donations to be paid out of the monies designed to constitute that fund, will be calculated to defeat that grand and charitable purpose,

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

91

### REGULATION PASSED IN 1814.

*Resolved*, That in future the fund design'd to be raised, by the resolution of the last Grand Annual Communication, shall not be touched, but for the purposes therein mentioned. 1814  
December  
14th

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1815.

Whereas several District Deputy Grand Masters, have failed to visit the Lodges under their respective jurisdiction, and various resolutions offer'd to the present Grand Annual Communication, having for their object, the advantage of the Craft, by an exemplification of the three degrees in open Lodge, having been rejected, therefore, 1815.  
December  
13th.

1st. *Resolved*, That on the first evening of every succeeding Grand Annual Communication, a Committee of five members be appointed by the Grand Master, to be called the "*Working Committee*," whose duty it shall be, to attend on the second and third days of each Grand Annual Communication, to exemplify to any Brother or Brethren wishing it, the three degrees of Masonry.

Whereas heretofore, the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, have never been reported to the Grand Lodge, or Grand Committee,

2d. *Resolved*, That in future, each District Deputy Grand Master make a report to each Grand Annual Communication, which shall be read to the Grand Committee, on the second day of the Session.

## GENERAL AND

## REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1816.

1816.  
December  
11th.

1st. *Resolved*, That every Lodge under this jurisdiction, do, at the stated meeting in the month of September, October, or November, recommend some Brother of respectability and skill, who is a Master of a Lodge, or regular Past Master, and a resident in the Masonic District, in which the Lodge so recommending is situated, as District Deputy Grand Master for the said District, for the year then next ensuing, and that said Lodge return the name of the person so recommended, with the annual return to each Grand Annual Communication.

Whereas great inconvenience has been experienced, by the subordinate Lodges, in discharging their annual contributions to the Grand Lodge, in consequence of the Grand Treasurer not deeming himself authorised to receive such money as has been offered him for that purpose, and by which means the said contributions cannot be discharged for the want of other money,

2d. *Resolved*, That the Grand Treasurer be directed to receive such sums as may be offered for the purpose aforesaid, by the subordinate Lodges, if in notes of Chartered Banks, and should any loss be sustained, that the same be charged to the Grand Lodge.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

93

### REGULATIONS PASSED IN 1817.

1st. *Resolved*, That in future every Master Mason being a member of the Grand Lodge, shall be eligible to any office therein, and that all regulations to the contrary be and they are hereby repealed. 1817. December 10th.

2d. *Resolved*, That when in future any member of a Lodge shall be suspended for non-payment of dues, the cause of suspension as well as the amount by him due, shall be mentioned in the report of the suspension to the Grand Secretary.

3d. *Resolved*, That the law which requires the Grand Secretary, annually to annex to the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, an accurate list of the officers and members of every lodge under our jurisdiction, be henceforth repealed, and that the Grand Secretary be required in place thereof, to annex accurate lists of the Masters, Wardens, and regular Past Masters of every lodge, and the total number of their members respectively.

4th. *Resolved*, That in future there be not more than fifty dollars expended for refreshments, during the sitting of our Grand Annual Communication, and that the refreshments be limited to drinking only. December 11th.



THIRD.



A

METHODICAL DIGEST

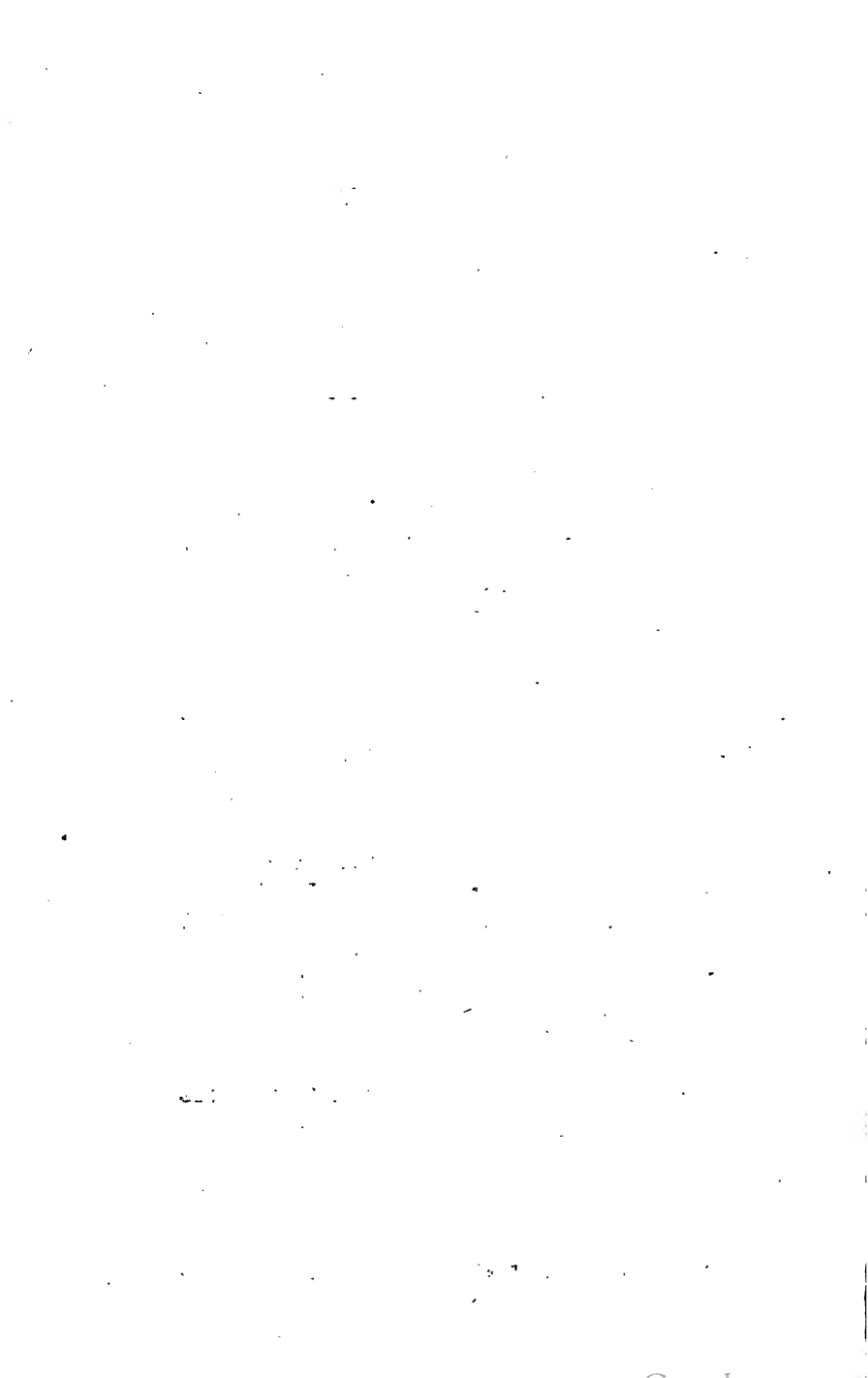
OF THE

CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS,

*NOW IN FORCE,*

DRAWN FROM THE FOREGOING SOURCES.





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General L. ...  
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Orthodox Digest

Chapter the first

# *Methodical Digest.*

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## CHAP. I.

### OF THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION INTO THE SOCIETY OF ANCIENT MASONS.

Before entering on the duties of Free Masons, whether in their individual or social capacity; it is proper to give a summary view of those qualities, which recommend candidates for initiation into the mysteries of our ancient fraternity. Ah. Rezon, Page 2.

1st. It is indispensibly necessary that every applicant expecting to gain admission into the Masonic Society, should exercise a firm belief in the eternal God, paying him that worship which is due to the great Architect and Governor of the Universe. Ah. Rezon, Page 9.

2d. And while on one hand he shuns the darkness of Atheism, he will with equal solicitude avoid the gloomy errors of bigotry and superstition, making a free and independent use of his understanding, the most invaluable attribute of intelligent beings. Ah. Rezon, Page 9.  
Ah. Rezon, Page 10.

3d. At the same time that he embraces with a firm hold, these fundamental principles of universal or natural religion; it will be no objection that he subjoin such other principles of faith, or forms of worship and adoration, as his own mind may deliberately approve. Ah. Rezon, Page 10.



Ah. Reason, 4th. Whoever would be a free Mason, is further to  
page 10. know, that in that character his civil and social obligations will in no degree be relaxed, but acquire additional force. He is to be a lover of quiet, peaceable, and obedient to the civil powers, so far as they infringe not the unalienable rights of reason and of religion, and to consider the welfare of his country an object of his peculiar care.

Ah. Reason, 5th. In regard to himself, a candidate for Masonry  
page 12. should know and practise all the private virtues, avoiding every species of intemperance and excess, which unfit him for the enjoyment of rational pleasure, and degrade him in the estimation of society. He ought to pursue the duties of his profession with diligence and assiduity, devoting his hours of leisure to improvement in those branches of knowledge, by which he may be rendered useful in the various relations of life. And for the more successful attainment of these valuable objects, he should cultivate with unwearied diligence the virtues of patience, self-denial, forbearance, and all others which afford a controul over the human passions, and enable him to discharge all his duties, whether to his family or to the world, with affection, dignity, and prudence.

Ah. Reason, 6th. He should have a disposition, and possess the  
pages 13, ability of preserving with inviolable fidelity, all secrets  
14, 15. which may be confided to him. On this point a candidate ought to examine his own character with scrupulous precision; since no defect would more expose him to ridicule and contempt, or more completely exclude him from the happy results of Masonic information, than a disposition to unfold what ought to be a sacred deposit, in the bosoms of faithful craftsmen.

7th. In addition to these religious and moral qualifications, it is moreover necessary that every candidate for Masonry should be a free born man, of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, of good reputation, of sufficient natural and intellectual endowments, with an estate, office, trade, occupation, or some other obvious source of honest subsistence; from which he may also be enabled to spare something for works of charity, and for maintaining the ancient dignity and utility of the Masonic institution. He must also be free from such corporeal deformity, as would render him incapable of pursuing his worldly avocations; or be likely to prevent him from procuring a livelihood, in case he should be necessitated so to do.

Ab. Reason,  
pages 15,  
16, 19.

Gen. Reg.  
1798. No. 6

## CHAP. II.

## OF A LODGE AND ITS MEETINGS.

**Ah. Rezon,** 1st. A Lodge is a place in which Masons meet to  
page 19. work. An assembly or organized body of Masons is also called a Lodge; just as the word church is expressive both of the congregation of worshippers, and of the building wherein they assemble to worship.

**Ah. Rezon,** 2d. A Lodge must consist of one Master, a Senior  
page 19. and Junior Wardens, a Secretary, a Treasurer,\* and as many members, as the Master and a majority of the members, shall from time to time think proper.†

**Ah. Rezon,** 3d. Thus constituted, a Lodge ought to assemble for  
page 19. work, at least once in every calendar month.

**Ah. Rezon,** 4th. For the preservation of secrecy, and to guard  
page 20. the Lodge from interruption or surprise, while engaged in serious and solemn labours; a well skilled Master Mason shall be appointed, and paid for tiling the Lodge door, during its convocation.

**Ah. Rezon,** 5th. Every Lodge shall keep a Book, containing its  
page 20. by-laws, the names of its members, and a list of all the Lodges under this Grand Lodge, with their usual times and places of meeting, and such other necessary parts of their transactions, as may with propriety be committed to writing.

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\* See Note A.

† See Note B.

### CHAP. III.

#### OF INITIATION, ADVANCEMENT, ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP, AND VISITING.

1st. Every person desirous of being made a free Mason in any Lodge, shall be proposed by a member thereof, who shall give an account of the candidate's name, age, quality, profession, place of residence, description of his person, and all requisite qualifications mentioned in the first chapter. And it is generally required that such proposal be seconded by one or more members possessing some knowledge of the candidate. It shall also be made during Lodge hours;\* and at least one Lodge night before initiation; in order that the Brethren may have sufficient time and opportunity, to make a strict enquiry into his circumstances, principles, character, and connections.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 16.

Ah. Rezon,  
pages 16,  
21.

2d. The Brother who proposes a candidate, shall at the same time deposit such a sum of money for him, as the By-Laws of the Lodge may require; which is forfeited to the Lodge if the candidate should not attend according to his proposal; but is to be returned to him if he should not be approved and accepted; and in case he is received, he is to pay in addition to his deposit, such further sum as is prescribed by the By-Laws of the Lodge.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 17.

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\* These hours are from seven to ten, between the 25th of March and 25th of September; and from six to nine, between the 25th of September and 25th of March.

Gen. Reg. 3d. No candidate for initiation, who shall be rejected  
1797. No. 6 in any Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand  
Lodge, shall be eligible to a second recommendation  
in that or any other such Lodge, until the expiration  
of twelve months.

Gen. Reg. 4th. And it shall be the duty of every Master of a  
1795. No. 1 Lodge so rejecting a candidate, to cause his Secretary  
Gen. Reg. to notify the same immediately to the Grand Secretary,  
1797. No. 7  
Gen. Reg. who shall give immediate information thereof to every  
1797. No. 8 Lodge under this Masonic jurisdiction.

Ah. Rezon, 5th. No Lodge shall make more than five new Bre-  
page 21. thren at one time, unless by Dispensation from the  
Grand Master, or his Deputy in his absence.

Gen. Reg. 6th. In all cases of advancement from one degree to  
1796. No. 8 another, it shall be necessary for the Brother wishing to  
be advanced, to undergo an examination in open Lodge,  
in the degree from which he proposes to be advanced;  
after which his eligibility to such advancement shall be  
decided by ballot, and the suffrages of the majority  
present shall determine on the subject.\*

Ah. Rezon, 7th. No Lodge shall confer a degree on any Brother  
page 21. who is not of their household, but a member of some  
other Lodge; for every Lodge ought to be competent  
to its own business, and without doubt most capable  
of judging of the qualifications of its own members.

Ah. Rezon, 8th. All applications of Brethren for membership in  
page 21. any subordinate Lodge, must be made one month  
Gen. Reg. before a decision can be given: and the balloting  
1811. No. 1 thereon shall be confined to Master Masons.†

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\* See Note C.

† See Note D.

9th. When on application for membership a rejection takes place, it is not indispensibly necessary, that the name of the rejected Brother should be inserted in the return to the Grand Lodge.

Gen. Reg.  
1798. No. 1

10th. No member can be imposed on any Lodge without its consent, by any power whatever.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 21.

11th. If any Lodge shall admit to membership, a Brother who may be in arrears to another Lodge; the Lodge thus admitting him, becomes responsible for the arrearages due to the other Lodge.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 21.

12th. Any Brother may be a member of as many Lodges as choose to admit him; and must always be a member of some Lodge.

Gen. Reg.  
1798. No. 2  
Ah. Rezon,  
pages 22,  
26.

13th. No Brother shall be admitted to visit any subordinate Lodge a second time, unless he is a member of some warranted Lodge in Virginia; or a sojourner from some other Grand Jurisdiction, carrying with him proper certificates.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 39.

## CHAP. IV.

## OF ATTENDANCE, AND DEPORTMENT IN LODGE.

**Ah. Rezon,** 1st. Every Brother must always appear in his Lodge  
**page 26.** properly clothed, and in clean and decent apparel.

**Ah. Rezon,** 2d. He must attend all meetings whether stated or  
**page 26.** emergent, when duly summoned, unless he can offer such plea of necessity for his absence, as the By-Laws and general regulations admit; and to all these Laws and Regulations, render a willing and cheerful obedience.

**Ah. Rezon,** 3d. While the Lodge is engaged in its usual labours,  
**pages 27,** Masons must hold no private conversations nor committees,  
**28.** without leave from the Master: nor introduce any remarks irrelevant to the business before them. They must not interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother addressing the presiding officer, nor act ludicrously while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; but every Brother shall shew due respect to the Master and Wardens and other Brethren.

**Ah. Rezon,** 4th. No discussions relating to nations, religion, or  
**page 28.** politics, must ever be introduced within the walls of a Lodge; Masons, as such, professing the universal religion, recognising those political maxims only in which all men agree, and considering all nations as members of the same human family.

**Ah. Rezon,** 5th. The working hours of the subordinate Lodges  
**page 27.** shall be from seven o'clock in the evening, until ten, between the 25th of March, and the 25th of September: and from six till nine, between the 25th of September, and the 25th of March.

CHAP. V.

OF UNMASONIC CONDUCT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

SECTION I.

*Of the powers and mode of proceeding thereon, in Subordinate Lodges.*

1st. Every Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Ah. Rezon, Grand Lodge shall have full power and authority to <sup>page 28.</sup> enquire into, and punish unmasonic conduct in any of its members; except Masters of Lodges and regular Gen. Reg. Past Masters: provided they do not interfere in dis- <sup>1800. No. 1</sup> <sup>Gen. Reg.</sup> <sup>1803. No. 4</sup> putes between Brethren of a pecuniary nature, except by request, or consent of all parties interested.

2d. In hearing all complaints and punishing delin- Ah. Rezon, quents, according to the Laws of the Craft they are to <sup>page 44.</sup> adhere most religiously to the old Hebrew regulation, viz. "If a complaint be made against a brother, and he be found guilty, he shall stand to the determination of the Lodge, but if the accuser or complainant cannot support his charge, and it should appear to the Lodge to be groundless, being the result of hatred, malice, or some unwarrantable passion, he shall incur such penalty as the accused would have done, had he been duly convicted."

3d. Every Lodge possesses an inherent power of Gen. Reg. suspending or expelling members, for a non-compliance <sup>1799. No. 4</sup> with its rules and By-Laws; and of enacting and enforcing its regulations, with respect to monthly, quarterly, Gen. Reg. <sup>1801. No. 4</sup> and annual fees, and fines for non-attendance.



Gen. Reg. 4th. Should any Brother resident in Virginia, who  
1799. No.3 may not belong to any Lodge under the jurisdiction of  
this Grand Lodge, deport himself so immorally as to  
merit the reprobation of his Brethren; the subordinate  
Lodge nearest to the place of his residence, shall have  
power to take cognizance of such reprehensible con-  
duct, in the same manner as if the said Brother were  
• a member of that Lodge.

Gen. Reg. 5th. Every Brother who may be charged with unma-  
1798. No.3 sonic conduct, shall in due time be furnished with a  
copy of the charges to be exhibited against him, if  
they be of a nature that will admit of being written; and  
if they be not, the said charges shall be made known to  
him by a Committee, to be appointed for that purpose.

Gen. Reg. 6th. Should any Brother whose conduct has been  
1798. No.4 regularly impeached, fail to attend the summons of the  
Lodge, or of the Committee appointed to examine into  
his said conduct; such Brother, so failing, shall stand  
suspended from all the benefits of Masonry, until he do  
come forward, and answer to the charges alledged  
against him.

Gen. Reg. 7th. If any member of a Lodge under the jurisdic-  
1798. No.7 tion of this Grand Lodge, shall visit or work in any  
Lodge of Masons commonly called Modern Masons;  
or any Lodge of Masons not working agreeably to the  
ancient usages of York Masons; he shall be reprim-  
anded by the Lodge to which he belongs; and if he  
should afterwards be guilty of a similar offence, he shall  
be expelled from the Lodge, and excluded from the  
benefits of Masonry.

Gen. Reg. 8th. In all cases of suspension, the person suspended  
1801. No.1 is thereby absolutely precluded from all and every the  
benefits and privileges of Masonry, throughout the  
Masonic world, during the term of the said suspension.

9th. In all cases of expulsion, the person expelled is thereby absolutely precluded from all and every the benefits and privileges of Masonry, throughout the Masonic world, forever: provided always, that the Lodge imposing a suspension or expulsion, shall have the power of reinstatement. Gen. Reg. 1801. No. 2

10th. Ballotting in the subordinate Lodges, in all cases of suspension and expulsion, shall be confined to Master Masons. Gen. Reg. 1811. No. 1

11th. All suspensions and expulsions in any subordinate Lodge, shall immediately be communicated to the Grand Secretary: and if a suspension is for a non-payment of dues, the cause as well as the amount due, shall be mentioned in the report of the suspension. Gen. Reg. 1795. No. 1  
Gen. Reg. 1817. No. 2

12th. No Master of a Lodge, or regular Past Master, can without his own consent previously obtained, be called to an account, or tried for misconduct, before any other body than the Grand Lodge, or a Committee to be appointed by the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master. Gen. Reg. 1800. No. 1

## SECTION II.

*Of carrying appeals from the decisions of Subordinate Lodges.*

1st. In all cases where a Brother may consider himself aggrieved by the decision of a subordinate Lodge, he has an undoubted right to appeal therefrom to the Grand Lodge, and Ah. Rezon, page 43.

2d. Whereas in cases of appeal to the Grand Lodge, from any vote, ballot, or resolution of any subordinate Lodge, it is necessary to have a copy of the whole of the written proceedings in such case, present at the Gen. Reg. 1811. No. 2

Gen. Reg. consideration of such appeal: therefore it shall be the  
1811. No. 2 duty of the Master of every Lodge, in all cases of  
appeal, forthwith to cause a copy of such proceedings  
to be forwarded to the Grand Secretary. But no copy  
of such proceedings shall be granted to any Brother  
whatever.\*

Al. Rezon, 3d. When any Brother appeals from a decision of  
page 43. his Lodge, he shall lodge a copy thereof with the Grand  
Secretary, who shall summon the parties and their wit-  
nesses to appear at the next ensuing Grand Communi-  
cation, in order to a re-hearing, and final determination  
of the controversy.

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\* See Note E.

CHAP. VI.

OF THE ELECTION, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF THE  
OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES.

SECTION I.

*Of the Election of the Officers in general.*

1st. The Election of Officers in the subordinate Lodges, shall be on the twenty-fourth of June, or the twenty-seventh of December; and they may be annual or semi-annual, as the Lodges by their By-Laws, may choose to direct. Ah. Rezon,  
page 32.  
Gen. Reg.  
1800. No. 7

2d. Whenever a vacancy shall happen, either by the death, removal, or resignation of any officer of a subordinate Lodge, such vacancy shall be filled either at the next stated meeting, or at a meeting specially called by the Master or presiding Warden, for that purpose. Gen. Reg.  
1804. No. 1

3d. In all cases of election of officers, the suffrages of a majority of all the members present, who are entitled to vote, shall be necessary to constitute a proper election. Gen. Reg.  
1798. No. 5

4th. In the election of officers, every free member, namely every member who has paid all arrearages, or has been excused from payment according to law, has one vote. Ah. Rezon,  
page 32.

5th. In selecting candidates for the different offices, great care is to be taken, that none be nominated from any other considerations than real merit, and pre-eminent ability to discharge the duties attached to them. Ah. Rezon,  
page 33.

## SECTION II.

*Of the Master of a Lodge.*

Ah. Rezon, 1st. No Brother can be Master of a Lodge, till he  
page 32. has regularly served in the office of Warden, unless in  
extraordinary cases, or where a new Lodge is about to  
be formed, and no Past Warden is to be found among  
the members. In such cases, a well informed Master  
Mason may be constituted Master of the new Lodge,  
Ah. Rezon, or of any old Lodge similarly situated: but previous  
pages 46, to entering on the functions of his office, he must receive  
47. the degree of Past Master.

Ah. Rezon, 2d. In the election of the Master, the present War-  
page 32. dens where they have regularly served, shall always be  
among the number of candidates for the chair.

Ah. Rezon, 3d. After the nominations are all made, the candi-  
page 32. dates shall withdraw, while every free member gives  
his vote in favour of him whom he deems most worthy.

Ah. Rezon, 4th. When the ballot is closed, the acting Master  
page 32. shall direct that the candidates return to the Lodge  
room, and take their seats. He shall then carefully  
Ah. Rezon, examine the poll, and declare the Brother having the  
page 33. majority of votes duly elected.

Ah. Rezon, 5th. The Master of every Lodge, thus duly elected,  
page 33. and installed, has it in special charge to see that the  
By-Laws of his Lodge, as well as the general regula-  
tions from the Grand Lodge, be duly observed, that  
his Wardens discharge their duties with fidelity, and  
be examples of diligence and propriety to the Craft,  
that true and exact minutes and records of all the pro-  
ceedings be kept by the Secretary, that the Treasurer  
keep and render accurate and just accounts, at the  
stated times required by the By-Laws and orders of

the Lodge, and in general, that all the goods and monies belonging to the Lodge be correctly managed and dispensed, as if they were his own private property, according to the vote and direction of the majority. Ah. Rezon,  
page 33.

6th. The Master has the power of appointing some Brother, (who is generally the Secretary,) to keep the book of By-Laws, and other Laws given by proper authority; containing likewise the names of all the members of the Lodge, and the list of Lodges in Virginia, with their usual times and places of meeting. Ah. Rezon,  
page 35.

7th. The Master has also the power of preventing the removal of his Lodge, from one house to another; unless sanctioned by the course of proceeding pointed out in Chapter XIV. Ah. Rezon,  
page 35.

8th. The Master of every subordinate Lodge, shall have power and authority to assemble his Lodge, upon the application of any of the Brethren, and upon any emergency which in his judgment may require their meeting. Ah. Rezon,  
page 34.

9th. It is likewise the duty of every Master of a Lodge, to attend all meetings of the Brethren in Grand Communication, as a representative of his Lodge. Ah. Rezon,  
page 34.

10th. When sitting in Grand Communication, the Master and Wardens, or such of them who may attend, have full power and authority to represent their Lodge, and to transact all business therein, as fully as if all their members were there present. Nevertheless, the representatives of every Lodge are subject to such instructions, as may be given them by their respective Lodges, for their conduct in Grand Communication. Ah. Rezon,  
page 22.

## SECTION III.

*Of the Wardens of a Lodge.*

Ah. Rezon, 1st. None but Master Masons can be Wardens of a  
page 37. Lodge.

Ah. Rezon, 2d. From among these, the Master elect shall nomi-  
page 33. nate one for the office of Senior Warden, and the present Master and Brethren shall nominate one in opposition; and in balloting for this and all the remaining officers, the Lodge shall proceed in the same manner as in choosing a Master.

Ah. Rezon, 3d. The Senior Warden succeeds to all the duties of  
page 37. the Master, when he is absent. And if the Master resigns, or becomes otherwise disqualified, the Senior Warden takes his place till it is supplied by election. And although it was formerly held that in all such cases, the Master's authority ought to revert to the last Past Master who is present, yet it is now the settled rule that the authority devolves upon the Senior Warden, and in his absence upon the Junior Warden, even although a former Master be present. And if the presiding Warden should call on any Past Master who may be in Lodge, to take the chair, on the presumption of his superior skill in conducting the business of the Lodge; nevertheless such Past Master still derives his authority from the Warden, and cannot act till that officer congregates the Lodge.\* If none of the officers be present, nor any Past Master, the members according to seniority and merit shall fill the places of the absent officers.

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\* See Note F.

4th. The business of the Wardens is generally, to assist the Master in conducting the labours of the Lodge, to perform that duty in his absence, and to attend as representatives of their Lodge in Grand Communication.\*

## SECTION IV.

### *Of the Secretary of a Lodge.*

1st. The Secretary shall keep regular minutes of the proceedings of a Lodge, that may properly be committed to writing; which shall be afterwards faithfully entered in the record books, with such corrections as the Brethren may approve.

2d. He shall keep an accurate list of all the members of the Lodge, with the times of admission of new members, and make a return thereof to the Grand Secretary, just before each Grand Annual Communication: which shall be signed not only by the newly installed officers of each Lodge, but also by the last past officers; in order that the Grand Secretary, and consequently the members of the Grand Lodge, may be at all times enabled to know, the number and names of members, in every Lodge under their jurisdiction; with the hand writing of the different officers; and to pay all due respect to the Brethren recommended, or certified by them from time to time.

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\* See Note F.



# METHODICAL DIGEST:

## SECTION V.

### *Of the Treasurer of a Lodge.*

**1st.** The Treasurer is to receive all monies paid in for the use of the Lodge, and to pay all orders drawn on him by its authority. He is to keep regular entries both of his receipts and disbursements, and to have his books and vouchers always ready for examination, at such stated times as the By-Laws require, or when specially called on by order of the Master and Brethren.

**2d.** The Treasurer is likewise to have the charge and custody of the jewels and furniture of the Lodge, unless when the Master and majority may judge it more convenient, to assign that duty to some other responsible Brother; or when the officers may take the charge immediately on themselves.

## SECTION VI.

### *Of the Tyler of a Lodge.*

**1st.** The Tyler should be a Master Mason of knowledge and experience; and generally a brother is to be preferred, to whom the fees of the office may be necessary and serviceable.

**2d.** His principal duty is, to take care that no person (even a member) shall be admitted while the Lodge is in session, without the knowledge and consent of the presiding officer.

CHAP. VII.

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA.

SECTION I.

*Of whom the Grand Lodge is composed.*

1st. The Grand Lodge of Virginia is composed, of Ah. Rezon, the Masters and Wardens of all the regular Lodges therein, or of such representatives as may occasionally be appointed, in the room of Masters or Wardens unable to attend. pages 22, 40.

2d. Of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Deacons. Ah. Rezon, pages 40, 54, 55, 56.

3d. Of the District Deputy Grand Masters. Gen. Reg. 1806. No. 9

4th. Of the regular Past Masters of the different Lodges.\* Ah. Rezon, page 40.  
Gen. Reg. 1795. No. 2

5th. Of the Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, and Grand Wardens. Ah. Rezon, page 40.

6. When any Master or Warden of a subordinate Lodge, from such urgent business as may reasonably plead his excuse, cannot attend the Grand Lodge; his Lodge may appoint any one of their members, (being a Master Mason) to supply his place in Grand Communication. Ah. Rezon, pages 22, 24.

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\* See Note G.

Gen. Reg. 7th. Any Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand  
1794. No. 2 Lodge of Virginia, and *not within this Commonwealth*,  
may be represented by any eminent Brother or Bre-  
thren, not a member or members of such Lodge: pro-  
vided, that no Brother shall represent two Lodges.

Ah. Rezon, 8th. Every Brother thus deputed to represent a  
pages 22, Lodge, shall be furnished with a certificate of his  
42. appointment, under the seal of the Lodge appointing  
him, and the attestation of the Secretary thereof; with-  
Gen. Reg. 1796. No. 3 out which he cannot take his seat in the Grand Lodge.

Gen. Reg. 9th. No Brother residing in the State of Virginia,  
1813. No. 1 can be a member of this Grand Lodge; unless he is  
actually a contributing member, of some Chartered  
Lodge under its jurisdiction.

Ah. Rezon, 10th. To constitute a quorum of this Grand Lodge,  
page 40. so as to proceed to business; there must be present the  
representatives of at least five regular Lodges.

Ah. Rezon, 11th. If the Grand Master is absent from any meet-  
page 42. ing of the Grand Lodge, the Deputy Grand Master  
shall supply his place: if the Deputy Grand Master  
be likewise absent, the Senior Grand Warden shall pre-  
side, and in his absence the Junior Grand Warden:  
and if neither of the presiding Grand Officers is pre-

Ah. Rezon, sent, the Master of the oldest subordinate Lodge who  
page 43. may be present, shall act as Grand Master pro tem.  
In all cases the presiding member may nominate his  
Deputy, and call on any eminent Brethren to fill the  
temporary vacancies of the Grand Lodge.

Ah. Rezon, 12th. The Grand Master when he finds he must  
page 43. necessarily be absent, shall nevertheless have the power  
at all times, of giving a special commission, under his  
hand, and seal of office, authorising any eminent Bro-

ther, a member of the Grand Lodge, to officiate in his place; provided the Deputy Grand Master should not attend.\* Ah. Rezon,  
page 43.

13th. In case of the death of a Grand Master, or any other Grand Officer, the same order of succession shall take place as is above set forth, till the next succeeding election. Ah. Rezon,  
page 43.

## SECTION II.

### *Of the Meetings and powers of the Grand Lodge.*

1st. The Grand Lodge thus formed, shall meet at the Masons' Hall in the City of Richmond, by four o'clock in the evening, of the second Monday in every December;† and may adjourn from day to day, until its business is finished. Ah. Rezon,  
page 40.  
Gen. Reg.  
1813. No. 2  
Gen. Reg.  
1797. No. 9  
Ah. Rezon,  
page 44.

2d. The Grand Lodge shall have power and authority at all times, to make local ordinances and new regulations, as well as to amend old ones; for their own particular benefit, and the good of Masonry in general: provided always, that the ancient land marks be carefully preserved. Ah. Rezon,  
page 40.  
Ah. Rezon,  
page 41.

3d. The Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication, shall seriously consider, discuss, and transact, all matters that concern the prosperity of the fraternity in general, or private Lodges and individual Brethren in particular. Here therefore are all differences to be deliberately considered and decided, that cannot be accommodated privately, nor by particular Lodges. Ah. Rezon,  
page 43.

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\* See Note H.

† See Note I.

**Ah. Rezon,** 4th. The members of the Grand Lodge, and of all  
**page 47.** warranted Lodges within their jurisdiction, so far as they have abilities and numbers, have an undoubted right to exercise all degrees of the ancient craft, and consequently the Royal Arch; but no Masons of any denomination can hold any Lodge without a warrant for the place where held. Nevertheless Royal Arch Masons must not at processions, nor in any other place, except in the Royal Arch Lodge, be distinguished by any garment or badge, different from what belongs to them as officers, or members of the Grand, or their own private Lodges.\*

### SECTION III.

#### *Of the manner of Voting in the Grand Lodge.*

**Ah. Rezon,** 1st. All questions before the Grand Lodge shall be  
**page 44.** determined by a majority of votes; to be regulated on the following principles, viz.

**Ah. Rezon,** 2d. The representatives of each subordinate Lodge,  
**page 44.** shall collectively have one vote.

**Ah. Rezon,** 3d. The Grand Master or Presiding Officer, one  
**page 44.** vote, except in cases of an equal division, when he  
**Gen. Reg.** shall have two votes; provided they are not cases of  
**1798. No. 5** election.  
**1801 No. 11**

**Ah. Rezon,** 4th. The Deputy Grand Master one vote.  
**page 44.**

**Ah. Rezon,** 5th. The Grand Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and  
**page 44.** Deacons, collectively, one vote.

**Gen. Reg.** 6th. The District Deputy Grand Masters collectively,  
**1806. No. 9** one vote.

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\* See Note K.

7th. The Past Grand Masters, and Deputy Grand Masters collectively, one vote. Gen. Reg.  
1812. No. 1

8th. The Past Masters, and Past Grand Wardens collectively, one vote. Ah. Rezon,  
page 44.  
Gen. Reg.  
1812. No. 1

9th. For the sake of convenience in voting, the Grand Master or presiding officer shall direct every collective body to sit together; that when a question is before the Lodge, they may consult among themselves how the vote shall be given; and when the question is put, one member of each collective body shall vote for the whole; and that duty shall be performed by the senior Mason. Ah. Rezon,  
page 45.

#### SECTION IV.

##### *Of admitting visitors into the Grand Lodge.*

1st. Any Master Mason having business before the Grand Lodge, or whose attendance becomes necessary to give evidence, or information, or who is of respectable standing, may be admitted to visit the Grand Lodge: But such Brother shall not be allowed to vote, nor shall he speak to any question without leave, or when requested to give his opinion: Provided, that no Brother whatever can be admitted into the Grand Lodge, unless he is a member of some regular Lodge. Ah. Rezon,  
page 41.  
Ah. Rezon,  
page 42.  
Ah. Rezon,  
page 41.

2d. Every Brother admitted to visit the Grand Lodge, shall pay to the Grand Treasurer, one dollar on every admission, for the benefit of the Grand Charity Fund; unless he is attending on business with the Grand Lodge, or his circumstances will not admit of the payment thereof. Gen. Reg.  
1798. No. 9  
Gen. Reg.  
1800. No. 4  
Gen. Reg.  
1798. No. 9

3d. Visitors are permitted to take their seats, before the opening of the Grand Lodge. Gen. Reg.  
1810. No. 1

## CHAP. VIII.

RULES TO BE OBSERVED, IN CONDUCTING BUSINESS  
BEFORE THE GRAND LODGE.

- Ah. Rezon, 1st. At the third stroke of the Grand Master's Gavel,  
page 49. there shall be a general silence; and whoever breaks it without permission from the chair, shall be publicly reprimanded.
- Ah. Rezon, 2d. Under the same penalty, every Brother shall  
page 49. keep his seat, and observe silence whenever the Grand Master, Deputy, or Grand Warden, shall think proper to call to order.
- Ah. Rezon, 3d. No member of the Grand Lodge shall ever  
page 42. appear therein, without the jewels he ought to wear in Gen. Reg. his own private Lodge; unless for some good reason 1796. No. 3 to be allowed in the Grand Lodge.
- Ah. Rezon, 4th. Every member shall take his seat according to  
page 49. the number of his Lodge, and avoid moving about during communication; except the Grand Wardens, as having more immediately the care of the Grand Lodge, and such other officers, whose official duties may call them to different parts of the Lodge room.
- Ah. Rezon, 5th. No Brother shall speak more than twice on the  
page 49. same subject; unless to explain, or when called upon by the chair to speak.
- Ah. Rezon, 6th. Every Brother who speaks, shall rise and in a  
page 49. respectful manner address the chair; and while speaking no member shall presume to interrupt him, under the aforesaid penalty. But if the speaker is wandering

from the point under consideration, and the Grand Master should call him to order, he shall sit down, and after being set right, may again proceed if he chooses. Ah. Rezon, page 49.

7th. If any member shall be twice called to order during the same evening, for a violation of these rules, and is guilty of a third offence of the same nature; the chair shall peremptorily order him to quit the Lodge room for the night. Ah. Rezon, pages 49, 50.

8th. Whoever shall be so rude as to hiss or laugh at any Brother, or at what he may have advanced; shall be forthwith solemnly excluded the communication, and rendered incapable of membership, till he shall have made satisfactory concessions. Ah. Rezon, page 50.

9th. For the purpose of admitting witnesses, it is deemed most proper to try all controversies in a committee, and therefore the presiding officer shall direct a committee of the whole Lodge to meet in the Hall, on the second day of communication, for the aforesaid purpose; and this committee shall examine and determine on every kind of business that may be referred to them, and report their proceedings to the Grand Lodge the same evening, for their ratification. Ah. Rezon, page 44.

10th. No resolution having for its object, the introduction of a new regulation in the constitution of the Grand Lodge, or the alteration of an existing one, shall be acted upon, unless it be handed up in writing to the chair, on the first or *second night* of the Grand Annual Communication, and audibly read by the Grand Secretary; after which it must be referred to the Grand Committee for consideration; and after being reported on by the committee, it shall be finally determined. Gen. Reg. 1801 No. 13  
Ah. Rezon, page 50.  
Gen. Reg. 1803. No. 1  
Gen. Reg. 1801 No. 13

11th. The Grand Master shall lay before the Grand Lodge, minutes of all his proceedings during the recess; which shall be read previously to the election of officers. Gen. Reg. 1794. No. 1



## CHAP. IX.

## OF RETURNS, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND FEES.

**Ab. Rezon,** 1st. The several Lodges on record shall transmit to  
**page 48.** each Grand Annual Communication, a list of all the officers and members of each Lodge, distinguishing their various grades, with such other matters relating to the craft, as may be deemed proper to communicate; and the said lists shall be recorded by the Grand Secretary, in a book specially appropriated for that purpose.

**Gen. Reg.** 2d. Every subordinate Lodge shall pay annually, as  
**1807. No. 1** a contribution to this Grand Lodge, the sum of fifty cents for each member of such subordinate Lodge; according to the returns made: Provided always, that no Lodge shall be charged with, or pay less than ten dollars, or be required to contribute more than twenty dollars annually.

**Gen. Reg.** 3d. And when any subordinate Lodge shall fail to  
**1812. No. 3** send its contribution, and to make a return of its members, such Lodge shall be chargeable on the books of the Grand Treasurer with the sum of twenty dollars; and when a return shall be made without the contribution, the Grand Secretary shall furnish the Grand Treasurer, with the amount of contribution due from such Lodge.

**Gen. Reg.** 4th. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary  
**1794. No. 3** to send out a list of such contributions, as may be paid to the Grand Lodge; after every annual communication.

5th. If any subordinate Lodge shall fail of attending the annual meetings of the Grand Lodge, or in the discharge of contributions to the Grand Charity Fund, for three years successively; such Lodge so failing, shall thereby be suspended; and all its workings thereafter be considered null and void, until it shall be regularly reinstated. Gen. Reg. 1799. No. 5

6th. For every Charter granted by the Grand Lodge, the members of the Lodge thereby constituted, shall pay to the Grand Lodge, the sum of thirty-three and one third dollars; and to the Grand Secretary a fee of six dollars. Ah. Rezon, page 47.

7th. But the Lodges constituted anterior to the Grand Communication in October 1791, may have new Charters, without the fee of thirty-three and one third dollars to the Grand Lodge. Ah. Rezon, page 47.

8th. For every Dispensation to form a new Lodge, the applicants shall pay to the Grand Secretary, a fee of four dollars and sixty-seven cents. Ah. Rezon, page 46. ✓

9th. For every Grand Diploma, the Brother receiving it shall pay to the Grand Treasurer, for the benefit of the Charity fund, the sum of one dollar; and Ah. Rezon, page 48.

10th. Every person admitted to any degree of Ma-sonry in this Grand Lodge, shall pay for the benefit of the Grand Charity, sixteen dollars and sixty-seven cents. Ah. Rezon, page 48.

## CHAP. X.

OF THE GRAND CHARITY FUND, AND INSURANCE  
QUOTAS.

**Gen. Reg.** 1st. A permanent fund shall be established by the  
**1813. No. 3** Grand Lodge in Virginia, in manner and form follow-  
**Gen. Reg.** ing, and shall not be touched but for the purposes therein  
**1814.** expressed.

**Gen. Reg.** 2d. All the cash that shall remain in the Grand  
**1813. No. 4** Treasurer's hands, after discharging the expenses of  
each Grand Annual Communication, all Charter and  
Dispensation Fees, and all fees arising from affixing the  
seal of the Grand Lodge, shall be appropriated to the  
said fund.

**Gen. Reg.** 3d. There shall be a subscription paper opened in  
**1813. No. 7** every Lodge, and presented to the Brethren on each  
St. John's day; for the purpose of receiving their volun-  
tary donations, in aid of the aforesaid fund.

**Gen. Reg.** 4th. All the monies which may thus accrue to the  
**1813. No. 5** Grand Charity Fund, shall be laid out in some public  
stock, in the name, and under the direction of the Grand  
Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior and  
Junior Grand Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer, and  
their successors in office; who are hereby appointed to  
take charge of the said fund, and report the state thereof  
to the Grand Lodge, at each annual Grand Commu-  
nication.

**Gen. Reg.** 5th. The interest alone arising out of the said stock,  
**1813. No. 6** shall be applied to the purpose of educating Master  
Masons' orphans, and relieving their distressed widows;  
and the principal shall remain untouched.

6th. As soon as the nett proceeds of the said fund, shall amount to one hundred dollars, the Grand Lodge may then, and not till then, at their Grand Annual Communication, dispose of the said annual proceeds, in such way as to them in their wisdom and discretion may seem best, in educating the orphan children, and relieving the widows of Master Masons; and that all the Lodges may have an equal opportunity of making their wishes known, as to the appropriation of said fund; every proposition for disposing of the proceeds thereof, shall be made and decided on, either on the first or second night of each Grand Annual Communication.

Gen. Reg.  
1813. No. 8

Gen. Reg.  
1813. No. 9

7th. The annual quotas to the Mutual Assurance Society against fire, on buildings in the State of Virginia, on the Masons' Hall in the City of Richmond, owned by the Lodges No's. 10 and 19, shall be paid out of the funds of the Grand Lodge.

Gen. Reg.  
1813 No. 10

## CHAP. XI.

## OF ISSUING CHARTERS, DISPENSATIONS AND DIPLOMAS.

- Ah. Rezon, 1st. No set of Masons shall ever take upon themselves to work together, or form a new Lodge; without a warrant or dispensation, issued according to the Laws of the Grand Lodge.  
page 22.
- Ah. Rezon, 2d. Charters for forming new Lodges, can only be granted, by the Brethren assembled in Grand Annual Communication.  
page 46.
- Ah. Rezon, 3d. Before application can be made to the Grand Lodge, by Brethren already members of a Lodge, for a charter to form a new one, the applicants shall pay up all dues to their Lodge, and notify them in writing, that they intend applying for a charter, to establish a new Lodge.  
page 22.
- Ah. Rezon, 4th. Whenever application is made to the Grand Lodge, by a sufficient number of Brethren, for a Charter to form a new Lodge; the Grand Lodge shall carefully ascertain, whether their skill as Masons, and their good conduct as men, will justify a compliance with their petition. And only after perfect satisfaction on these points, shall the Grand Lodge issue a Charter.  
page 45.
- Ah. Rezon, 5th. When a Lodge becomes too numerous for working with convenience, and application shall be made by some of the members for leave to separate, and form a new Lodge; the cause of their separation must be certified by their Lodge, to the Grand Communication, together with a recommendation of the Brethren, most proper to be appointed officers of the new Lodge, before a Charter shall issue.  
pages 22, 46.

6th. The Grand Master, or in his absence out of the State, the Deputy Grand Master, may grant a Dispensation for forming a new Lodge, to continue in force until the next Grand Communication: provided the petitioners are furnished with the same recommendations, as are necessary for obtaining Charters. But it shall be discretionary with the succeeding Grand Annual Communication, whether a Charter shall be granted or not.\* Ah. Rezon,  
page 46.

7th. No Charter or Dispensation to constitute a Lodge, shall be granted to any number of Masons, residing in any other State, where a Grand Lodge adopting this principle is held; unless such Grand Lodge shall furnish the petitioners, with a written acquiescence, properly authenticated. Gen. Reg.  
1797. No. 1.

8th. And the Grand Lodge of Virginia will hold no communication with any Lodge in this State, which shall in future be constituted, by the authority of any other Grand Lodge. Gen. Reg.  
1797. No. 2.

9th. The Lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge in October 1791, may have new Charters, so numbered as to preserve their priority of rank, agreeably to the dates of their original Charters. Ah. Rezon,  
page 47.

10th. Every Charter issued from this Grand Lodge, shall be signed by the Grand Master, or in case of his death or absence out of the State, by the Deputy Grand Master and Wardens, sealed with the seal of the Grand Lodge, and attested by the Grand Secretary; directed to three reputable Brethren, authorising them to call in other Brethren to their assistance, and to enter apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, and raise Master Masons, agreeably to ancient customs and usages. Ah. Rezon,  
page 46.

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\* See Note L.

† See Note M.

**Ah. Rezon,** 11th. Every Dispensation granted for forming a new  
**page 46.** Lodge, shall have the seal of the Grand Lodge, and the attestation of the Grand Secretary; and be entered by him in the book of proceedings.

**Ah. Rezon,** 12th. Whenever a Charter shall issue from this Grand  
**page 46.** Lodge, to form a new Lodge, it shall be accompanied by a Dispensation, signed by the presiding officer, with the seal of the Grand Lodge, and attested by the Grand Secretary; directed to some Past Master, with power to appoint his Wardens, and to install the officers of the new Lodge, and set them to work, agreeably to ancient customs and usages: but the Master of the new Lodge shall previously receive his degree, in the presence of three Past Masters at least. And all these  
**Ah. Rezon,** things must be done, before the new Lodge can be  
**page 47.** entitled to representation in Grand Lodge.\*

**Gen. Reg,** 13th. Every newly constituted Lodge shall be fur-  
**1793. No. 1** nished with a book of Constitutions; at the expense of the Grand Lodge.

**Ah. Rezon,** 14th. Every Brother previously obtaining a certifi-  
**page 48.** cate, from the Lodge of which he is a member, setting forth his regular behaviour, and that he has regularly discharged all Lodge dues, shall be entitled on application, to receive a Grand Lodge certificate or diploma, impressed on parchment, and signed by the proper officers,† and having also the signature of the member himself, opposite the seal.

**Gen. Reg,** 15th. Every member of a Lodge under a Dispensa-  
**1801. No. 3** tion, shall be considered a member under a subsequent Charter.

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\* See Note N.

† See Note O.

CHAP. XII.

OF THE MANNER OF CONSTITUTING A LODGE.

1st. A sufficient number of Brethren being convened in conformity to Dispensation, as set forth in the tenth paragraph of the foregoing chapter, together with the Brethren of the intended new Lodge; the constituting Lodge shall be opened in the first degree of Masonry.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 23.

2d. The Brethren designated as Master and Wardens of the new Lodge, being yet promiscuously among their fellows, the acting Master shall ask his Senior Warden if he has examined them, and found them well skilled in the mysteries of Masonry, &c. The Warden answering in the affirmative, shall by the Master's order take the Senior Candidate from among his fellows, and present him to the Master saying, "Right Worshipful Master, the Brethren here assembled, desire to be formed into a regular Lodge, and I present my worthy Brother A. B. to be installed their Master, whom I know to be of good morals and great skill, true and trusty, and a lover of the whole fraternity, wheresoever dispersed over the face of the Earth."

Ah. Rezon,  
page 23.

3d. Then the Master placing the candidate on his left hand, and having asked and obtained the unanimous consent of the Brethren, shall say, (after some other ceremonies and expressions that cannot be written,) *I constitute and form these good Brethren into a new regular Lodge, and appoint you Brother A. B. the Master thereof, not doubting of your capacity and care, to preserve the cement of the Lodge, &c.*

Ah. Rezon,  
pages 23,  
24.



Ah. Rezon, 4th. Whereupon the Senior Warden, or some other  
page 24.

Brother for him, shall rehearse the charge of a Master, and the Master shall ask the candidate saying, "Do you submit to these charges as Masters have done in all ages?" and the new Master signifying his cordial submission thereto, the Master shall by certain significant ceremonies, and ancient usages, install him; and present him with his warrant, the book of constitutions, the Lodge Book, and the instruments of his office, one after another; and after each of them the Master, his Warden, or some Brother for him, shall rehearse the short and expressive charge, suitable to the thing presented.

Ah. Rezon, 5th. Next the members of this new Lodge bowing  
page 24, to the acting Master, shall return him thanks according to the custom of Masons, and shall immediately do homage to their own Master, and as faithful craftsmen signify their promise of obedience to him, with usual congratulations.

Ah. Rezon, 6th. The Wardens and such other Brethren as are  
page 24. not members of this new Lodge, shall now congratulate the new Master; and he shall return becoming acknowledgments, first to the acting Master, and other officers, and then to the rest in order.

Ah. Rezon, 7th. The acting Master then instructs the new Mas-  
pages 24, ter, to enter immediately on the exercise of his official  
25. functions; and the new Master calling forth his Senior Warden, presents him to the acting Master for his approbation, and to the new Lodge for their consent; whereupon the Senior or Junior acting Warden, or some other Brother for him, rehearses the charges of a Warden, &c. and he signifying his cordial submission thereto, the new Master shall present him with the several instruments of his office in succession, and install him in due and ancient form.

8th. In like manner, the Master of the new Lodge shall call forth his Junior Warden, and present him to be duly installed. And the members thereof shall signify their obedience to their Wardens, by the usual congratulations. Ah. Rezon, page 25.

9th. The acting Master then gives all the Brethren joy of the Master, Wardens, &c. and recommends harmony, &c. hoping their only contention will be a laudable emulation, in cultivating Masonic and social virtues. Ah. Rezon, page 25.

10th. Then the Secretary by the acting Master's order, in the name of the Grand Lodge, proclaims this new Lodge duly constituted No. &c. upon which all the members of the new Lodge, (after the customs of Masons) return their cordial thanks for the honour of this constitution, and the Lodge is adjourned. Ah. Rezon, page 25.

11th. The Master thus acting under Dispensation, makes return to the Grand Secretary, of his proceedings therein. Ah. Rezon, page 26.

## CHAP. XIII.

## OF PROCEEDINGS IN RETURNING CHARTERS.

Gen. Reg. 1803. No. 3 1st. Whenever a question shall be agitated in a private Lodge, having in view the return of its Charter to the Grand Lodge, the said private Lodge shall be convened by summonses, issued at least one month, before the first discussion of the question of returning the Charter shall be had: and the Tyler or person appointed to summon the Brethren, shall make due return of the persons summoned.

Gen. Reg. 1803. No. 3 2d. When in conformity to the aforesaid summonses, the Lodge shall be convened, the concurrence of a majority of at least two thirds of the members present shall be necessary, before the proposal for returning the Charter, shall be entered of record. If such majority be found, this proposition shall lie over until the next regular meeting of the Lodge; and summonses and return thereof, shall be made as before. At the said next regular meeting of the Lodge, the subject shall again be discussed; and if two thirds of the attending members shall be in favour of giving up the Charter, the reasons on which such resolution is founded, shall be entered of record.

Gen. Reg. 1801. No. 7 3d. Immediately after the passage of such resolution, a schedule shall be made out and entered of record, of all the books, papers, jewels, furniture, funds, &c. belonging to the Lodge, and also a list of all the creditors of, and debtors to the Lodge.

4th. When these measures shall have been taken, the said Lodge shall cause to be laid before the Grand Lodge, at the next succeeding Annual Communication, an accurate copy of the whole of their proceedings; with the reasons, schedule, and list aforesaid; when the Grand Lodge will on thus possessing the whole subject, take such order on the case of such private Lodge, as shall appear to be right and proper. Gen. Reg. 1801. No. 8

5th. When the determination of any Lodge to return its Charter, shall be confirmed by the Grand Lodge; or when a Lodge shall be declared dormant or extinct; the books, papers, funds, furniture, and every thing else belonging to such Lodge, shall come under the controul, direction, and safe keeping of the Grand Lodge; as the paternal representative of the Craft, throughout its jurisdiction. Gen. Reg. 1803. No. 2

## CHAP. XIV.

## OF PROCEEDINGS IN REMOVING LODGES.

Ah. Rezon, 1st. No motion can be made for the removal of a  
page 35. Lodge, in the absence of the Master. But if a motion be made while he is present, for moving the Lodge to some other more convenient place, within the district assigned by the Charter; and the said motion be seconded and thirded, the Master shall order summonses to every individual member of the Lodge, specifying the business, and appointing a time not less than ten days distant, for discussing and determining thereon.

Ah. Rezon, And if on the ultimate vote, the Master is not of the  
page 36. majority, the Lodge shall not be removed, unless two thirds of the members present vote for such removal.

Ah. Rezon, 2d. But if the Master refuse to direct such sum-  
page 36. monses to be issued; then either of the Wardens may authorise the same; and if the Master neglects to attend on the day therein appointed; the Lodge may under the direction of the Warden, proceed to a decision.

Ah. Rezon, 3d. If the Lodge thus regularly decide on a removal,  
page 36. the Master or Warden shall send notice to the Grand Secretary, that such removal may be recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge.

CHAP. XV.

OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE, AND STEWARD'S  
LODGE, OR COMMITTEE.

1st. On the first evening of every Grand Annual Communication, a Committee of five members shall be appointed by the Grand Master, to be called the "Working Committee;" whose duty shall be, to attend on the second and third days of each Annual Communication, to exemplify to any Brother or Brethren wishing it, the three degrees of Masonry. Gen. Reg. 1815. No. 1

2d. A Steward's Lodge or Committee shall be appointed, for the purpose of regulating the Steward's Department. Gen. Reg. 1796. No. 5

3d. In performing the duties thus assigned them; they shall authorise no expenditures beyond the aggregate amount of fifty dollars, during any Grand Communication; and shall limit the refreshments to drinking only. Gen. Reg. 1817. No. 4

## CHAP. XVI.

## OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

Gen. Reg. 1806. No. 1      1st. As soon as may be after the close of each Annual Communication, the Grand Master for the time being, shall cause the Lodges under this jurisdiction to be laid off in convenient districts, to be numbered in succession.

Gen. Reg. 1816. No. 1      2d. Every subordinate Lodge, at the stated meeting in the month of September, October, or November, shall recommend some Brother of respectability and skill, who is a Master of a Lodge, or regular Past Master, and a resident in the Masonic district in which the Lodge so recommending is situated; as District Deputy Grand Master for the said district, for the year then next ensuing; and said Lodge shall return the name of the person so recommended, with the annual return, to each Grand Annual Communication.

Gen. Reg. 1806. No. 1      3d. At the time of laying off the said districts, the Grand Master shall appoint to each district, some Master of a Lodge or Past Master, of respectability and Masonic skill, as District Deputy Grand Master; which appointment shall continue in force, until the Grand Annual Communication next succeeding the date thereof, unless sooner revoked by the Grand Master, by whom it shall have been made.

Gen. Reg. 1806. No. 2      4th. Every District Deputy Grand Master so appointed, shall be furnished with a warrant of his appointment, signed by the Grand Master or his Deputy, and attested by the Grand Secretary, with the seal of the Grand Lodge affixed.

5th. Immediately after every appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters as aforesaid, the Grand Secretary shall forward to each of the subordinate Lodges, a list of the names of the persons appointed, with the Lodges composing the districts placed under their superintendence respectively. Gen. Reg.  
1806. No. 2

6th. The duties of the District Deputy Grand Masters shall be as follow; and each of them by virtue of his appointment, shall possess full power and authority to carry these duties into full effect; that is, Gen. Reg.  
1806. No. 3

7th. Every District Deputy Grand Master shall visit every Lodge in his district, at a stated meeting, at least once during the term of his appointment; and of such intended visit, he shall give the Master or Secretary of the Lodge, at least five weeks notice. Gen. Reg.  
1806. No. 4  
Gen. Reg.  
1810. No. 3

8th. At every such visit, the District Deputy Grand Master is to preside in the Lodge, after it is opened, and he is introduced. He is to examine the records of the Lodge, and see if they are regularly kept, to inform himself of the number of members, and whether they are generally punctual in their attendance; to enquire whether the Lodge be in a flourishing or a declining state: to point out any errors he may observe in their conduct or manner of working; to instruct them in every particular wherein he may conceive them to require information: to recommend attention to the moral and benevolent principles of our institution; caution in the admission of candidates, and a punctual representation of their Lodge, at every meeting of the Grand Lodge. Gen. Reg.  
1806. No. 5

9th. When any District Deputy Grand Master shall discover, either in his own district, or in any other part of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, any Masonic Gen. Reg.  
1806. No. 6



Gen. Reg. error or evil, whether it appertain to an individual or  
1806. No. 6 to a Lodge; he shall immediately endeavour by Ma-  
sonic means to arrest its progress; and if he shall judge  
it expedient, he is forthwith to forward to the Grand  
Master or Grand Secretary, full information of the  
whole subject.

Gen. Reg. 10th. Previously to every annual meeting of the  
1806. No. 7 Grand Lodge, every District Deputy Grand Master  
shall, so far as is proper to be done, make out in writing,  
a candid and faithful report of the state of each Lodge  
in his district, and forward it to the Grand Secretary,  
Gen. Reg. to be laid before the Grand Lodge; and such report  
1815. No. 2 shall be read to the Grand Committee on the second  
day of the session.

Gen. Reg. 11th. In the Grand Lodge, the District Deputy  
1806. No. 9 Grand Masters shall sit as a distinct body; and in all  
questions shall have one vote collectively.

*[Faint handwritten notes and signatures are visible at the bottom of the page.]*

CHAP. XVII.

OF THE ELECTION, AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS  
OF THE GRAND LODGE.

SECTION I.

*Of the Election of the Grand Officers generally.*

1st. The election of *all* the officers of the Grand Lodge, shall take place by ballot, on the second evening of every Grand Annual Communication; and shall have the priority of all other business of this evening, the minutes of the Grand Master's proceedings during the recess, having been previously read. Gen. Reg. 1801. No. 9  
Ah. Rezon, page 51.  
Gen. Reg. 1794. No. 1

2d. In all cases of election of officers, the suffrages of a majority of all the members present, who are entitled to vote, shall be necessary to constitute a proper election. Gen. Reg. 1798. No. 5

3d. There shall be at least two candidates in nomination in the election of every officer. Ah. Rezon, page 53.

4th. All these elections shall be for one year, and until another election shall be made: nevertheless the Grand Master may be elected for four years, the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens for two years successively, and the other Grand Officers as often as may be the pleasure of the Lodge. Ah. Rezon, page 45.  
Gen. Reg. 1801. No. 9  
Gen. Reg. 1796. No. 1

5th. Every member of this Grand Lodge shall with the preceding limitations, be eligible to any office therein; and may be elected whether he be present or absent. Gen. Reg. 1799. No. 1  
Gen. Reg. 1817. No. 1  
Gen. Reg. 1812. No. 2

Ah. Rezon, 6th. Election to an office in the Grand Lodge, shall  
page 41. be no cause of disqualification, from holding an office  
in a subordinate Lodge.

## SECTION II.

### *Of the Grand Master.*

Ah. Rezon, 1st. The presiding officer shall request the Lodge to  
page 51. nominate some skilful Brother or Brethren, for the office  
of Grand Master. Should there be only one member  
in nomination, it shall be the indispensable duty of the  
Most Worshipful to nominate one other in opposition;  
with this exception, that if the present Grand Master  
is again eligible, and willing to serve another year, he  
shall instruct his Deputy to nominate the candidate in  
opposition.

Ah. Rezon, 2d. The Grand Master if eligible, shall be at all  
page 51. times in the nomination.

Ah. Rezon, 3d. The members shall then prepare their ballots,  
page 51. for one of the Brethren in nomination, to be collected  
by one of the Grand Deacons, when the Grand Master  
shall instruct two of the members to examine the bal-  
lots, and report to him in writing the number of votes  
in favour of each candidate. And he shall imme-

Ah. Rezon, diately cause the Brother having the greatest number of  
page 52. votes, to be thrice proclaimed aloud by the Secretary,

## GRAND MASTER OF MASONS.

Ah. Rezon, 4th. The presiding officer shall then cause the Grand  
page 52. Master elect to be conducted to the chair; and after  
introducing him to the members as a skilful and faithful  
Brother, shall proceed to invest him with the badges  
of his office, and install him in due form; upon which  
all the members shall salute him, according to the an-  
cient customs of Masons.

SECTION III.

*Of the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, &c.*

1st. The Grand Master elect shall next nominate some skilful Brother for the office of Deputy Grand Master, and the Lodge shall nominate one or more in opposition: and the member having the greatest number of votes shall be declared duly elected, and shall in like manner be introduced, installed, and saluted by the Brethren.

Gen. Reg.  
1801. No. 9  
Ah. Rezon,  
page 53.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 52.

2d. In like manner shall the Grand Lodge proceed, in the election of the Grand Wardens, and all the remaining officers.

Ah. Rezon,  
pages 53,  
55, 56.  
Gen. Reg.  
1801. No. 9

SECTION IV.

*Of the Grand Secretary, and his Deputy.*

1st. The office of Grand Secretary is of very great importance in the Grand Lodge, from the variety and multiplicity of business committed to his care, and from the learning, abilities, and attention, necessary for the proper management of it.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 53.

2d. All the proceedings of the Grand Lodge are to be drawn into form and recorded by him.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 53.

3d. All petitions, applications, and appeals, are to pass through his hands. And no Charter or other instrument of writing is authentic without his attestation, and affixing the Grand seal.

Ah. Rezon,  
page 53.

4th. As soon as possible after each Grand Annual Communication, he is to transmit to each Lodge, a copy of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, a list of

Gen. Reg.  
1800. No. 3  
Gen. Reg.  
1794. No. 3

Gen. Reg. 1817. No. 3 contributions paid to the Grand Treasurer, and accurate lists of the Masters, Wardens, and regular Past Masters, of every Lodge in communication.

Gen. Reg. 1797. No. 8 5th. He shall give immediate information to every Lodge under our jurisdiction, of all rejections that may be notified to him by any of these Lodges.

Ah. Rezon, pages 53, 54. 6th. The general correspondence with Lodges, and with Brethren throughout the world, is to be conducted by him, agreeably to the voice of the Grand Lodge, and the instructions of the Grand Master or his Deputy.

Gen. Reg. 1796. No. 4  
1797. No. 3 And it is particularly his duty, once a year to write circular letters, to all the Grand Lodges in North America, and such as are known to be established in Europe.

Ah. Rezon, page 54. 7th. The Grand Secretary by virtue of his office, shall be a member of the Grand Lodge, and have a right to vote along with the Grand Wardens, in all cases except in choosing Grand Officers.

Ah. Rezon, page 54. 8th. He shall also have the right of appointing his own deputy, or assistant, who must be a Master Mason: but such deputy shall not by virtue of that appointment, be a member of the Grand Lodge.

## SECTION V.

### *Of the Grand Treasurer, and his Assistant.*

Ah. Rezon, page 55. 1st. To the Grand Treasurer is committed the care of all monies raised for the general charity, and other uses of the Grand Lodge; an account of which he is regularly to enter in a book, with the respective purposes for which the several sums are intended. He is likewise to disburse the same on legal orders, and to keep an accurate account of his disbursements.

2d. The Grand Treasurer or his assistant, shall always be present in Lodge; and ready when required to attend the Grand Master and other officers, with his books for inspection, as well as any Grand Committee that may be appointed, for examining and adjusting his accounts. Ah. Rezon,  
page 55.

3d. The Grand Treasurer shall receive in payment of annual contributions, all sums that may be offered by the subordinate Lodges, if in notes of Chartered Banks; and should any loss be thereby sustained, he shall charge the same to the Grand Lodge. Gen. Reg.  
1816. No. 2

4th. He shall regularly render his accounts, up to the close of each Annual Communication. Gen. Reg.  
1801 No. 10

5th. The Grand Treasurer shall ex officio be a member of the Grand Lodge, and vote with the Grand Wardens. Ah. Rezon,  
page 55.

6th. He shall have a right to appoint an assistant, who must be a Master Mason. But such assistant shall not thereby be a member of the Grand Lodge. Ah. Rezon,  
page 55.

## SECTION VI.

### *Of the Grand Deacons.*

1st. The Grand Deacons are ex officio members of the Grand Lodge. Ah. Rezon,  
page 56.

2d. Their duty is principally to assist the Grand Master, and Senior Warden, in conducting the business of the Lodge. Ah. Rezon,  
page 56.

## SECTION VII.

*Of the Grand Tyler and Pursuivant.*

**Ah. Rezon,** 1st. The Grand Tyler and Pursuivant must be intelligent Master Masons. But neither of them is by virtue of his office, a member of the Grand Lodge.  
page 56.

**Ah. Rezon,** 2d. The Tyler's duty is to attend at the outside of the Hall door, and to take care that none but members or visitors duly authorised shall enter: and not even members or visitors while the Lodge is in session, without first reporting them through the Grand Pursuivant, and receiving the Grand Master's permission.  
page 56.

**Ah. Rezon,** 3d. The Tyler is also to summon the members on any special emergency, by order of the Grand Master or his Deputy, signified to him under the signature of the Grand Secretary or his clerk.  
page 56.

**Ah. Rezon,** 4th. The business of the Pursuivant is to attend withinside the door of the Lodge, and to report from the Grand Tyler, the names of all Brethren applying for admission. He is also to carry messages while the Lodge is open, and to perform sundry other services, only known in the Lodge.  
page 56.

## SECTION VIII.

*Of the Grand Stewards.*

**Gen. Reg.** 1st. Previously to each Grand Annual Communication, the Grand Stewards shall wait on at least two members of the Stewards' Committee, and obtain their sanction to a specific bill of fare, which shall in no respect be exceeded by the Grand Stewards; nor shall the Committee authorise the expenditure of more than fifty  
1805. No. 2  
3  
Gen. Reg.  
1817. No. 4

dollars, during any communication; and the refresh- Gen. Reg.  
ments shall be limited to drinking only. 1817. No. 4

2d. The Grand Stewards shall at no time admit Gen. Reg.  
any Brother into either of the rooms appropriated for 1810. No. 2  
their department; except the members of the Grand  
Lodge, and those who shall be regularly admitted to  
visit.



Mr J. J. Shivers  
Book.

June 16<sup>th</sup> 1885.

Done

# NOTES

ON THE

## *Methodical Digest.*

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### NOTE A.

#### CHAPTER II. 2.

Although I am sensible how extremely vague and defective, the description of a Lodge herein alluded to must appear; yet finding it so laid down in Ahiman Rezon, and not knowing that the Grand Lodge has ever passed any regulation, either altering or explanatory thereof, I do not consider myself at liberty to change its form.

It may be viewed as somewhat improved by the recognition of a Tyler, provided in the 20th page of Ahiman Rezon, and again in the 39th page, under the laws regulating the election of the officers of a Lodge: It still however remains palpably indefinite, affording no correct view of the constituents of a Lodge, either in its most limited or extended state.

A Lodge in its most limited state, consists of a Master, a Senior and Junior Wardens. These three officers when duly assembled, are competent to every work, in which a Lodge may be lawfully engaged. And without the whole, no Lodge can possibly exist.

But while we rest upon the Master and Wardens, as the essential and indispensable constituents of a Lodge, it will not be questioned, that the assistance of other officers is of the utmost consequence, in facilitating the labours of every Masonic society. Accordingly though many Lodges commence their workings, with no other members except the Master and Wardens; yet so soon as their numbers and intelligence are sufficiently increased, they go on to elect Secretaries, Treasurers, Stewards, Deacons, and Tylers; and never again are without them, so long as such officers can be furnished from among their members.

Nevertheless if from any cause a Lodge should be deprived of one or all these last named officers, its labours although conducted with inconvenience and difficulty, would still be perfectly legal and Masonic.

Hence the Master and Wardens are essential and indispensable officers; the others are officers of convenience, but not indispensable. Hence too the distinction generally made, of superior or presiding, and inferior or auxiliary officers of a Lodge.

## NOTE B.

### CHAPTER II. 2.

The second clause of the above paragraph also presents considerable obscurity. What are we to understand, by a Lodge consisting of as many members, as the Master and a majority shall from time to time think

proper? Such a regulation seems to admit of the following constructions; first that if it should become a question in any Lodge, to what number the admission of members should be carried or restricted, the Master and a majority, and not the mere majority itself, shall determine the question. In this case the voice of the majority would be lost, if the Master was opposed to it.

Secondly it may imply that where applications are made for admission to membership, the votes of the Master and a majority shall be necessary and sufficient, to procure the admission of the candidate.

Thirdly that when an application is made for initiation into the mysteries of Masonry, and to which a right to membership is always consequent, the same rule of decision shall prevail.

In admitting the first construction, the prosperity of a Lodge may be affected by restricting the number of its members; but it offers no wound to individual feeling, either on the part of an intended applicant, or to his friends in Lodge, further than the regret that his admission should be precluded, on a general principle that precludes all others.

Under the second construction, consequences of the most disagreeable nature would be likely to arise; inasmuch as numerous and respectable minorities, might thereby have members obtruded on them, with whom they never could possibly harmonize. And the danger of this would be the greater, as by a regulation passed in 1811, balloting in cases of application for membership, is confined to Master Masons. Consequently the Master and a majority of the Master Masons of a Lodge, would have it in their power to admit members,

who might be completely obnoxious to a large majority of their Lodge, namely, the minority of the Master Masons, and the whole of the Fellow Crafts, and Apprentices.

To admit the third construction would open the way to consequences, not less destructive to the harmony and prosperity of Lodges, than any view we have taken of the subject. There is no privilege on which a Free Mason more highly values his institution, than that by virtue of which he feels assured that no applicant can without his consent, gain admission within the walls of the sacred temple. And to those who have sometimes witnessed the distress and excitement, produced by attempts to introduce candidates for initiation, even in opposition to the wishes of a single member, an appeal may fairly be made, in calculating the consequences, likely to result from such a construction of the law.

Upon the whole then it seems most reasonable to give to the clause in question, the first of the three constructions adverted to: not because such a construction contains any thing valuable in itself, or desirable in its results; but because it leads to consequences, infinitely less injurious to the Masonic institution, than any of the others.

Moreover it is not likely to become in this country any thing more than a subject of abstract speculation. I never have known of a single instance, where a Lodge has judged it necessary to impose any limitation on the number of its members. I see no greater difficulty in conducting the labours of a numerous Lodge, than of one which consists of only a few, and there are many reasons for believing, that causes very different from the great number of members, have generally operated the partition of old, and the formation of new Lodges.

NOTE C.

CHAPTER III. 6.

This regulation when executed according to its true spirit and intention, is admirably calculated to insure a competent knowledge of one degree, before any Brother is advanced to another.

It is on the same principle that some Grand Lodges prohibit the conferring of two degrees on the same days; and require that certain specified periods of considerable duration, should intervene between the times of being initiated into the respective degrees.

In passing rapidly through different grades of Masonry, a candidate acquires only the most superficial knowledge of either, and what is infinitely worse, he blends together the labours of different degrees, and sometimes remains ever after incapable of separating them. So that he is not only labouring under constant embarrassment himself, but continues utterly incapable of communicating instruction to others.

But while the regulation before us cannot be too highly estimated, it is proper we should observe that it goes no farther, than to ascertain the proficiency of a candidate. Whether his conduct has uniformly been in accordance with his duties as a Mason, is an enquiry not less important. And therefore the by-laws of most Lodges contain a provision, that after a candidate for advancement shall have received an approving vote as to his proficiency, his moral fitness for being further advanced, shall be determined by a second ballot, in which the same unanimity is required as for initiation. It is usual also, and certainly very proper, to confine all votes respecting advancement, to such members as have attained to those degrees, into which the respective candidates pray to be introduced.

## NOTE D.

## CHAPTER III. 8.

With all the discretion which it is possible for Master Masons to exercise, in acting under the latter part of this regulation, its evident tendency is to produce the evils enumerated under the Note B.

Unless a concurrence at least approaching to unanimity, prevails in the admission of members, and the right of negation is secured to junior as well as senior Masons, it is much to be apprehended, that Lodges instead of becoming more numerous, happy, and respectable; will be agitated with dissensions, which once introduced, seldom subside without effecting a severance of the society where they prevail.

## NOTE E.

## CHAPTER V. SECTION II. 2.

From the wording of this regulation, it is not very clear whether by proceedings is to be understood the mere actings of the Lodge, on the charge; and the facts adduced in testimony, so far as these facts may be written; or the charge, testimony, and proceedings collectively. But in whatever light we view the subject, it seems difficult to discover why a copy should be denied to a Brother, whose moral character, and Masonic standing are thereby placed in jeopardy.

NOTE F.

CHAPTER VI. SECTION III. 3, 4.

It is universally admitted, and the law of the Grand Lodge explicitly declares, that no Brother appointed or elected Master of a Lodge, can enter on his official duties, till he has received the degree of Past Master.

This is a wise provision; and predicated on the consideration, that no Brother can be fully acquainted with the duties of the presiding officer of a Lodge, till he has received that degree.

Any attempt then to exercise the functions of Master of a Lodge, without the aid derived from the Past Master's degree, would very probably fail of being beneficial to a Lodge wherein he might preside, and at the same time prove a source of perplexity and mortification to himself.

But if the Wardens are to assist the Master in conducting the labours of the Lodge, and unaided, to perform his duties in his absence; it is highly necessary they should know in what these duties consist. Of course there is an evident propriety, and indispensable necessity, of making the Wardens acquainted with the degree of Past Master.

If any further argument were required in aid of this reasoning; it would stand strengthened and supported by the consideration, that the Wardens of a Lodge are equally with the Master, vested with all the powers of representation in Grand Communication, and equally eligible to every office therein. Yet if a Warden of a Lodge has not received the degree of Past Master, we might be presented with the ridiculous spectacle, and



mortifying inconsistency, of having even at the head of the Grand Lodge, a Brother who had never obtained the qualification necessary to enable him to preside in his own.

Again if any business should come before the Grand Lodge, having an immediate reference to the Past Master's Degree; in what an awkward situation are members thereby placed who have never received it? Would the members of that degree ask their Brethren to withdraw, when these Brethren stand fully recognised as the representatives of their Lodges? Would they in their presence develop mysteries these Brethren have no right to know, or they to communicate, till the others should have received the degree in question?

A case precisely in point presents itself. Let us suppose a Master of a Lodge or regular Past Master, to be arraigned before the Grand Lodge, the only tribunal having jurisdiction of offences charged against such Brethren. Brethren who are not of the fourth degree cannot be held competent to try him, for a violation of his duties as a Past Master, or Master of a Lodge, for the clearest reason imaginable; that they have no knowledge of those duties themselves. And to proceed on any other principle, would be to render perfectly nugatory, that just and equitable regulation, which provides that no Master of a Lodge or regular Past Master, shall be tried otherwise than by members of the Grand Lodge.

The only practicable method of getting clear of these difficulties, would be, to enact that no Brother elected a Warden of a subordinate Lodge, shall enter on the exercise of his official duties, till he shall have received the degree of Past Master.

NOTE G.

CHAPTER VII. SECTION I. 4.

Anterior to 1795, various attempts had been made by Brethren, to hold seats in the Grand Lodge, merely by virtue of having received the degree of Past Master, or of having been placed in the chair by the operation of the law, in consequence of the resignation or other disability of the elected Master. But in the Grand Communication of that year, with a view of putting an end to all such troublesome applications, the Grand Lodge endeavoured to render the law more explicit, by solemnly determining, that "no person is eligible to the rank of Past Master, but those who have regularly had the suffrages of a majority of their Lodge." It is believed that no further attempt to infringe the law has since taken place.

NOTE H.

CHAPTER VII. SECTION I. 12.

It is confidently believed that no instance of this kind has ever occurred in the Grand Lodge of Virginia, where Grand Masters have frequently been absent. And were a Grand Master to issue such a commission, it would probably be considered an act of high disrespect to the Lodge, notwithstanding the sanction it might seem to receive from the law.

The unassuming course generally pursued by Grand Masters in Virginia, has in all probability had a great

effect in keeping out of view, ~~this~~ and some other parts of the law delivered in the New Ahiman Rezon, pointing at undue privileges to these officers; insomuch that from their long continued disuse, the laws of that description are in a great measure forgot.

### NOTE I.

#### CHAPTER VII. SECTION II. 1.

In designating a period for holding the Grand Annual Communications, the Brethren have uniformly been governed by a wish to enable distant Lodges to avail themselves of the services of such of their members, as might be attending the State Legislature. Accordingly by the New Ahiman Rezon the annual meetings of the Grand Lodge, were fixed for the 28th day of October, unless that should fall on a Sunday, and then the day after. By a regulation passed in 1794, these meetings were directed in future to be held on the fourth Monday in November, and by another passed in 1797, on the second Monday in December; since which, no farther alteration has taken place in the day of meeting.

NOTE K.

CHAPTER VII. SECTION II. 4.

The paragraph connected with this note, appears to have been copied verbatim into the New Ahiman Rezon, from a work published between forty and fifty years ago, by a distinguished officer of the Grand Lodge of England.\*

At the time of its adoption by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, there were very few Royal Arch Chapters in this State, and most of them were attached to Lodges, originally established by Charters from Europe.

To the maxims laid down by the Grand Lodges, from whom their authority to assemble and to work had emanated; as well as to the opinions of eminent individuals composing them; the members of these Royal Arch Societies looked up with veneration and confidence. And they felt no reluctance nor hesitation, in submitting to that controul of the Grand Lodge, over Royal Arch Masons, whether in their associate or individual character, which is clearly assumed in the paragraph before us.

But since Royal Arch Chapters have become more numerous, and arrived at a much more correct understanding of the principles of their government; they have both in theory and practice, disavowed the doctrines herein contained.

They contend that Lodges having no knowledge of the higher parts of Masonry, which lie beyond the degree of Past Master, cannot possibly give sanction to

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\* Brother Laurence Dermot.

the establishment of societies of so advanced an order; nor are they qualified in any shape to regulate the proceedings of those, who already are, or may hereafter be established. And they declare the idea of such a sanction, or submission to such controul, to involve an absurdity too palpable to escape detection, and an assumption of power, to which they cannot compatibly with a sense of duty, subject themselves, or the Royal Arch Societies to which they belong.

In pursuance of these views, the Royal Arch Masons have proceeded to renounce all dependence on, and subjection to the Lodges; and to establish for themselves Grand and subordinate chapters, on the same principles on which Grand and subordinate Lodges were first established; still however remaining attached to the Lodges of which they were members.

Thus far it is probable most men of liberal minds will concur, in admitting that the Royal Arch Masons have acted with justice and propriety; thus far will accompany them, with sincere wishes for their prosperity and happiness.

It seldom happens, however, that men are satisfied; with recovering the exercise of powers unjustly withheld; whether withheld from inadvertence or design; but proceed in their turn to make encroachments on the rights of those previously restricting them. Such has been the course pursued by the Royal Arch Masons.

In the regulations they have established, for the government both of Grand and subordinate chapters, they assume the right of conferring the degree of Past Master; and indeed of every degree preparatory to that of Royal Arch; notwithstanding by the acceptance of their Lodge Charters, they disclaim every authority

to perform any part of the labours of a Lodge, except that derived from the Grand Lodge; and do therein, as well as by the Grand Lodge regulations, profess and promise obedience to the Laws thereby established; and all this too in direct violation of a Law of the Grand Lodge, prohibiting the conferring of any degree on a member of a Lodge, except in that to which he belongs.

It may not have happened that this collision of principles, has as yet led to any serious practical evils; but such is certainly its natural tendency. And it is infinitely better to apply a preventive now, than a remedy after injury shall have resulted; and when the force of habit shall have given apparent sanction to errors, which it may be hoped are as yet chiefly in theory.

Such a preventive seems really to be of easy application, and to consist in nothing more than this, that the Grand Lodge do solemnly disclaim all controul over the proceedings of Royal Arch Masons; and at the same time assert their own right to an exclusive jurisdiction, of all proceedings falling within the degrees of entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, and Past Master.

It is fair to presume that this act of independence and of justice, would immediately induce the Royal Arch Masons, in like manner to assert their exclusive right, to regulate all their Masonic labours beyond the degree of Past Master; and at the same time to disclaim all title to govern Past Masters, and Brethren in subordinate degrees.

Thus would a true and correct line of demarkation be drawn, between the Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters; after which it would be reasonable to hope, that every attempt by either party to encroach on the other, would henceforth cease.

## NOTE L.

## CHAPTER XL. 6.

Whatever recommendatory documents may have supported the applications of Brethren, for Dispensations to form new Lodges; the granting of subsequent Charters, has heretofore rested almost entirely on the correctness with which their proceedings while under Dispensation, have appeared to be conducted.

It is the usual practice, to exhibit detailed copies of such proceedings, before the Grand Committee; together with the By-Laws of the new Lodges. These are committed to the careful examination of two or three members of the Grand Committee, by whom a report of their general character, as well as any specific peculiarities contained in them, is immediately made: where, upon the Grand Committee proceed to decide on the applications for Charters.

Tests like these have ever been considered of the highest consequence, in deciding the title of applicants for Charters; and various efforts have been made, to introduce into the laws of this Grand Lodge, a provision, that no Charter should be granted, until they should have evinced their capacity, by working twelve months under a Dispensation. Such however has been deemed too rigid a course; since the talents of some applicants for conducting the labours of a Lodge, may at once be ascertained, to the utmost degree of satisfaction.

But when the claim to a Charter has appeared in any degree doubtful, whether a Dispensation has preceded or not, the Committee have voted against the Charter; and either substituted a Dispensation, or withheld both.

NOTE M.

CHAPTER XI. 10.

Immediately after the words Master Masons, it is usual to introduce into Charters, a clause authorising the Chartered Brethren *to perform all other works:* and under Chapter vii. Section ii. 4. every regular Lodge may certainly proceed to work, in any degree properly belonging to a Lodge, though not to interfere with the business of Royal Arch Masons; of whom a Lodge has neither knowledge nor controul.

NOTE N.

CHAPTER XI. 12.

The method of constituting a Lodge, in conformity to this regulation, and detailed in Chapter xii. has for many years entirely superseded the course of proceeding, pointed out in pages 22 to 26, of the New Ahiman Rezon.

NOTE O.

CHAPTER XI. 14.

These officers though no where designated in the New Ahiman Rezon, or in any regulation of more recent date; are in practice understood to be the Grand Master or Deputy, and the Grand Secretary.



As these Grand Officers generally reside at a considerable distance from each other, a degree of difficulty and delay in obtaining their signatures is thereby incurred; as well as an expence probably never contemplated by the framers of the law.

The consequence is, that Brethren wishing to obtain Diplomas on any sudden emergency, are disappointed of receiving them; and frequently obliged to travel into distant countries, barred of the assistance of a testimonial, so necessary to their easy admittance, among foreign societies of their Brethren.

It is to be hoped that some provision will soon be made, against this serious inconvenience; so that Brethren entitled to Diplomas, may obtain them with facility and expedition.

*This Book purchased at  
Tallion Lancers Sale  
By J. G. Lonsdale 1867*

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## POSTSCRIPT.

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IN attempting to form a Digest of Masonic Law, for the use of Brethren resident in Virginia; drawn from the New Ahiman Rezon, and from Resolutions subsequently passed by the Grand Lodge; it seemed important that the following objects should be attained; first, that every legal principle contained in both these rules of Masonic conduct, should be transferred into the Digest—secondly, that every point of law laid down in the Digest, should stand supported by one at least of these authorities; and thirdly, that a perspicuous and natural arrangement of the subjects treated of, should be adopted.

Against the accomplishment of these objects, the New Ahiman Rezon has presented a fruitful field of labour and difficulty: arising among other causes, from an entire want of reference figures in the table of contents;—from a want of coincidence, between the table of contents, and passages intended to be referred to;—from a frequent blending, of subjects of dissimilar character, in the same paragraph;—from placing at a distance, subjects whose similarity of character, ought to have drawn them together;—from frequent ambiguity of expression, leaving it doubtful whether the sentiment of the writer, or the law itself, was the object aimed at;—from finding laws of acknowledged importance, slightly and obscurely hinted at; instead of being explicitly declared;—and sometimes from discovering inconsistencies, that appeared hardly susceptible of reconciliation.



To counteract these difficulties, I began by indexing the whole; and afterwards arranged each particular passage, under what was considered an appropriate head: and when the doctrines seemed conflicting, or the language ambiguous, that sense has been adopted, which was viewed most consonant to reason, and the fundamental principles of Masonry.\*

From the method thus pursued, and the pains that have been taken, that every point of law contained in the Ahiman Rezon, should also occupy a place in the Digest, it is hoped that none of any value have eluded notice. And while some of real importance, that were very slightly mentioned, have been extended, and brought more fully into view; such passages as were considered only a verbose exposition of the same principle, have been very freely abridged; care being taken at the same time, that no part of the sense should be lost.

I am not however fully satisfied, of having always been so fortunate, as to hit upon a correct exposition of the text. But as every principle and regulation set forth in the Digest, is accompanied with a marginal note, referring to the authority on which it is understood to rest; the reader will thus be enabled to judge for himself, and to furnish the true interpretation, if I have missed it.

With respect to the arrangement, such a plan has been pursued, as seemed best to accord with the natural affinities of the subjects treated of.

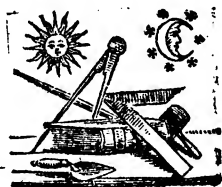
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\* As the New Ahiman Rezon was to form one of the principal foundations of the Digest, I did not in re-printing it, consider myself at liberty to make any corrections of it, either in arrangement, composition, or punctuation, but aimed at an accurate literal copy from the original.

Upon the whole I venture to indulge a hope, that the plan on which this work is conducted, may be the means of leading the members of the Masonic Society, into a more intimate acquaintance, with the laws by which they are governed; that their defects as well as their excellencies will thus become more manifest; and that intelligent Brethren, marking their defective parts, will soon be induced to offer such amendments, as the most candid must acknowledge, are yet very much wanted.

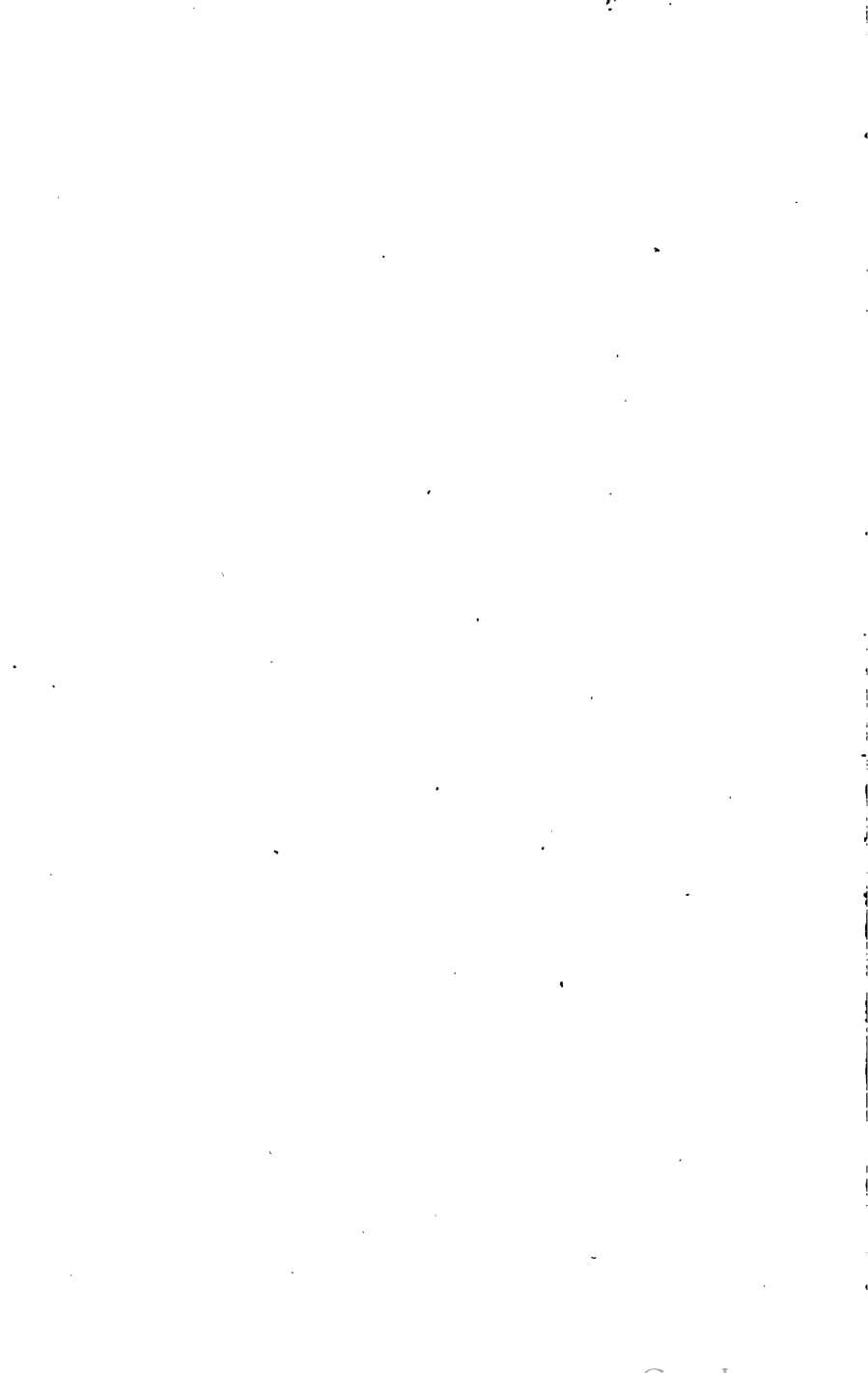
J. HENDERSON.

MANCHESTER, 20th Sept. 1818.





OF  
**MASONIC FUNERALS.**



OF  
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SINCE the foregoing work was put to press, several intelligent and respectable Brethren have represented, that we are without any correct guide, for conducting Masonic funerals: the instructions given on that subject in the New Ahiman Rezon, as well as in publications of a later date, appearing by no means well calculated for such occasions; and that a better form of a funeral solemnity, would be a very acceptable appendage to the present work.

It is from a due regard to the suggestions, and the wishes of these worthy Brethren, that the following short outline of a funeral ceremony is attempted. Its materials are drawn principally from Masonic writings; but altered and arranged, with a view of its being rendered more suitable, to the solemn occasion for which it is intended; and at the same time, of receiving a greater simplicity of form.

The reader will be pleased to recollect, that this constitutes no part of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Virginia; and indeed, that the Grand Lodge has never passed any regulation on the subject of Masonic Funerals.

The Brethren of the Lodge of which the deceased shall have been a member, should assemble at their hall, where it is to be opened in the first degree of Masonry; and thence proceed in order of procession, to the house of the deceased.

If the Brethren of other Lodges attend as individuals, they will be associated, and walk along with the members of the Lodge to which the deceased shall have belonged, according to their respective grades; each wearing the uniform belonging to him in his own Lodge.

But if it is wished that the visitors should be associated as distinct Lodges, in the procession, each of such Lodges will then be conducted by its own respective officers; and the whole will be under the direction of the Master of the Lodge of which the deceased shall have been a member. In this case, the Junior Lodge will be in front, the others following according to seniority; but the presiding Lodge always in the rear.

If the procession is small, so as to admit of the whole being within the Master's view, no additional Wardens will be required; and these officers may walk immediately in front of him, or of the Past Masters elect. But if it is far extended, a sufficient number of Wardens ought to be placed at convenient distances, so that every part of it may be within the view of some of these officers, or of the Master.

Before leaving the Lodge room, where the procession is to be formed, the Master ought to explain to the Brethren the whole of its intended order; and to deliver very precise instructions to the Wardens, who are to assist him in regulating it, and to the Junior Deacons in front, on whose attention and precision in executing his orders, much of its regularity will depend. For the purpose of bearing communications in large processions, between the Master and Wardens, all these officers ought to be attended by Deacons, accustomed, if possible, to such proceedings.

No Brother should ever be received into such procession, unless when the Lodge is in retirement. For Brethren to be falling at random into a funeral procession, in a public street, is extremely indecorous; and calculated to produce confusion. Moreover it ought to be considered that while engaged in such solemnities, the Lodge is open, and that no Brother has a right to enter it, without being previously announced, and receiving permission, in due form, through the proper officers.

The front of the procession having arrived opposite the house of the deceased, the Brethren will halt, while the Master detaches a sufficient number, to place the corpse on the carriage in which it is to be borne to the grave, the others remaining in their places. The Brethren thus detached, having performed the duty assigned them, shall immediately resume their stations.

But if considerable delay is now unavoidable, and sufficient accommodation can be obtained in the adjoining house, the Brethren may retire into a private room, changing front as they enter; and be careful in leaving it, to have the procession formed precisely as on going out of the Hall. In either case, when the procession again moves, the Brethren will immediately follow the corpse; and the whole will proceed slowly, till the front reaches the gate of the church yard, where a halt is to be made, and the corpse taken out of the hearse, to be carried to the grave, by a sufficient number of brethren, appointed to that duty by the Master: or if divine service is first to be performed in the church, the coffin will be placed on a platform in front of the pulpit, or some other convenient situation; while the Brethren in entering will again change front, and sit as nearly as the situation will admit in order of procession, and be



extremely careful to resume that order, before leaving the church, to proceed to the grave.

The procession should approach by the head of the grave; over which the coffin is to be rested, while the Brethren advance on each side to the foot, or so far beyond it as their numbers may render necessary. And before proceeding to any other part of the ceremony, the Master should be attentive, that they stand in regular order, and perfect composure.

The coffin is now to be let down into the grave, and after being adjusted, the Worshipful Master will pronounce the following oration:

“From time immemorial, it has been an established custom, among the fraternity of free and accepted Masons, to accompany the body of a departed Brother to the place of interment, and there to deposit his remains, with due form and ancient solemnity.

In conformity with this laudable usage, and from respect to our deceased Brother, whose memory we revere, and whose loss we deplore, we are now assembled in the character of Masons; to resign his body to its kindred dust, and to offer up the last tribute of affection to his memory.

On this mournful occasion we are presented with an impressive example, of the uncertainty of life, and of all human pursuits. The last offices of respect paid to the dead, only become useful, as they are lectures to the living.—From them, therefore, we ought to derive instruction, and to consider even solemnity like the present, as a friendly admonition, to prepare for our approaching dissolution. Notwithstanding the numerous evidences of mortality which are daily exhibited to

our view; notwithstanding our perfect conviction, that death has established his empire over every department of nature's works; yet through some unaccountable fatality, we are still apt to forget that we were born to die. We go on from one design to another, adding hope to hope, and sketching out plans for the subsistence and employment of many years: till at length we are suddenly alarmed by the approach of death, while yet considered far distant; perhaps at an hour on which we fondly and securely smile, as the meridian of our prosperity and happiness.

What are all the splendid decorations of power, the pomp and pleasures of wealth, or the winning charms of beauty, when nature has paid her last debt? If for a moment we direct our attention to this closing solemn scene, viewing life stripped of its adventitious ornaments, and exposed in its natural deformity, we shall then be convinced of these empty delusions. In the grave all fallacies are detected, all ranks are levelled, and every distinction is done away.

While we drop the sympathetic tear over the grave of our deceased friend, let charity induce us to throw a veil over his foibles, whatever they may have been; and let us not withhold from his memory, the praise his virtues may have claimed. Suffer the apologies of human nature to plead in his behalf; and reflect that perfection has never yet been attained; but that the wisest as well as the most virtuous of men have erred. His meritorious actions then let us admire and imitate, and from his defects derive useful instruction.

Let the example before us excite our serious attention, and strengthen our resolutions to amendment. As the period of human life is always uncertain, let us with due diligence and activity, commence the important

duty of preparing for a state of eternal duration; pressing on with unabated perseverance and zeal, while the golden opportunity is still within our reach: and cease not from securing for ourselves, a boundless share of comfort and consolation, in the reflections naturally growing out of an uniform and inflexible devotion to the practice of virtue, after the ordinary pleasures of life shall have ceased to delight.

Finally, Brethren, let us with uniform propriety maintain the principles and character of our admirable institution; advert to the nature of our solemn engagements, and pursue with unwearied assiduity the hallowed paths of Masonry. Let us with becoming reverence, and pious confidence, invoke the divine grace; that we may secure the favour of that eternal being, whose power and benevolence are of boundless extent; and prosecute our journey without apprehension, to that far distant country, from whose confines no traveller returns. By the enlivening beams of the divine countenance, we shall approach without fear, those gloomy mansions where all things are forgotten; looking forward to the possession of an immortal inheritance, where streams of rational pleasure continue forever to flow.

As it has pleased the Divine Creator to remove our Brother, from the cares and perplexities of this transitory existence, to a state of eternal duration; and thereby to weaken the chain by which we are connected one with another: may his example remind us of our approaching destiny, and incline us who survive him, to be more strongly cemented by the principles of fraternal union, and magnanimous friendship.

Unto the grave, we resign the body of our friend and brother;\* there to sleep in peace until the general resurrection; in confident expectation, that his immortal soul will then partake of joys, which have been prepared for the righteous, from the beginning of time; and that he, and all of us now assembled to mourn his death, will thenceforth be crowned with felicity through boundless ages.†

The following invocations are then to be pronounced by the Master, and the usual honours to accompany each response by the brethren.

*Invocation.* "May we be true and faithful, and may we live and die in love."

*Response.* "So mote it be!"

*Invocation.* "May we profess what is good, and may we always act agreeably to our professions!"

*Response.* "So mote it be!"

*Invocation.* "May the great Architect of Heaven and Earth, bless and prosper us; and may all our good intentions be crowned with success!"

*Response.* "So mote it be!"

The Secretaries will then advance, and throw their rolls into the grave; while the Master repeats with an audible voice,

"Glory be to God on high, on earth peace and good will towards men!"

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\* Here some of the Brethren will strew earth into the grave.

† At this stage the Brethren will drop green boughs into their brother's grave.

*Response.* "So mote it be, now, henceforth, and forever!"

The service being thus closed, the grave is to be covered up, when the procession will return to the Hall, opposite to which it will halt and change front, so that the Master may enter first, and the other Brethren in their appropriate order.

The following are given, as convenient forms of funeral procession. The first is calculated for a Lodge of ordinary numbers, whether constituting the whole, or only a part of the procession: the second is suitable to cases, where a great number of Brethren are assembled.

### FIRST FORM.

Music, Tyler, Music,

*Junior Deacon*, Entered Apprentices, *Junior Deacon*,

Fellow Crafts,

Master Masons,

Past Masters, by courtesy,

Steward and Deputy,

Secretary and Treasurer,

Senior and Junior Wardens,

Past Masters Elect,

Bible carried by an old Mason,

MASTER.

*Senior Deacon.*

*Senior Deacon.*